



shôjo

BASARA



Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol.4



shōjo

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Yumi Tamura

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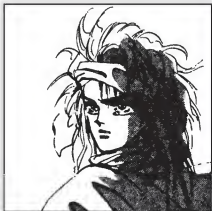
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Sarasa (disguised as Tataru)

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tataru were born, a prophecy was made. "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tataru was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up mostly in his shadow. When the Red King's forces kill Tataru, Sarasa takes up her brother's name and fights in his guise, not realizing that she is the real Child of Destiny. Only visits to hot springs offer Sarasa the privacy to indulge her true identity. There, she meets a curious young man named Shuri, who has become her only outlet for being completely herself.



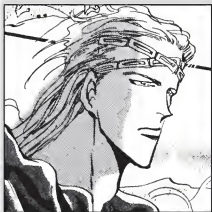
The Red King

In charge of Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of the King of Japan's four sons. Prophesied to bring misfortune to his father, King Ukon branded him a slave. Only a privileged few call him by his name—Shuri. Hounded by threats from abroad and his family, he is a ruthless but effective ruler, crushing those who oppose him. The destruction of Byakko Village is just one in a long list of rebel groups he has suppressed. Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa reveal hints of his unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace. Seemingly intent on courting, he has given Sarasa a whistle to call a carrier parrot so they might write to each other during their travels.



Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a King and arranging for 1000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems to be extremely informed and influential. He also has a secret identity—Kicho, a famous performer among a traveling troupe of dancing ladies. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded it as payment for his rescue of 12-year-old Sarasa. Now, he is "Tataru's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.

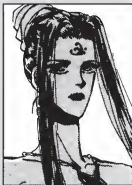


Shido

In charge of Kyushu, Shido is the Red King's cousin and trusted friend. He is also known as "Shido the Buddha" for the combination of his soothing countenance and his ability to send thousands to Heaven during times of conflict. To lighten Shuri's burden, Shido has taken over the hunt for Tataru. Ageha was once his family's slave.

Chacha

A strong leader and fighter, this pirate chief is all Sarasa aspires to be. Although Chacha captured "Tatara" to be sold as a slave, "his" courage and quick thinking has won Chacha to "his" side.



Kaku

Byakko Village's military advisor and trainer, Kaku is loyal to Sarasa's family and the cause of the "Boy of Destiny." Kaku, the prophet Nagi, and Sarasa's mother are the only ones who know Sarasa has taken her brother's place.



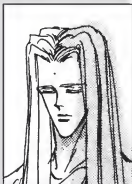
Zaki

Laconic, intelligent and powerful, Zaki is in love with Chacha and will do anything for her. Fiercely loyal to his chief, Zaki aids her best by being her second in command and utilizing his remarkable skills as a sailor and fighter on her behalf.



Nagi

Extremely wise, Nagi is the blind prophet who declared the prophecy at the birth of Tatara and Sarasa. Also a priest, a doctor and a teacher, Nagi has educated Sarasa despite others who questioned the wisdom of teaching so much to a girl.



Hayato

Hayato made a deal with Shido. In exchange for pretending to be Tatara and bringing those who joined him to the bargaining table, Hayato would receive medicine for his sick mother. The deal ended in an ambush and his mother dying from her illness. So Hayato has become "Tatara's" resourceful traveling companion.



General Kazan

The Red King's military leader, General Kazan's loyalty is as fierce as his sword.



Senju

Her lady-like demeanor hides this princess' passionate heart. Fear for her fiancée's safety spurred her to drastically improper actions. A late-night visit to Shido ended in a secret marriage prior to his hunt for Tatara in southern Kyushu.



Asho

An advisor to the Red King, he is plainly not as blindly loyal as General Kazan.



STORY THUS FAR

In the early 21st century, an apocalypse turned fertile lands into deserts and brought human civilization to its knees. Control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. 300 years later, a new hope was born.

At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village placed their hopes in their Chieftain's son Tataru and raised him as the "Boy of Destiny."

With the tyrannical Ukon XV ruling Japan through his ruthless sons, a better tomorrow can only be achieved by means of strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister to secretly take up his sword and fulfill the prophecy of their birth. Sarasa must lead her people in her brother's name or all will be lost.

Sarasa's journey to Kyushu in search of supporters lands her in the hands of pirates. With luck, courage and quick wits, she changes her captors into allies. But just as she gains new friends, a terrible foe arrives. Shido and the unstoppable Raijin armored charioteers surround the pirates by land while a Shojo ship blocks the secret harbor's exit. Beyond the Shojo ship lies the Fujin, Navy of the Red King.

Sarasa turns certain defeat into success by swimming past the Fujin to infiltrate the massive Shojo flagship. Turning the Shojo's contraband cannon on the Red King's forces, Sarasa sinks the unsuspecting Fujin and stops the Raijin in its tracks. As if in tribute, inactive Sakurajima erupts beneath the harbor.

Aware of Shido's need, the Red King sets sail in his mighty new battleship, the Crimson. No sooner does he leave his capital than a spy sinks a visiting foreign merchant vessel. This crisis demands his return, and in a daring attempt to prevent a foreign invasion, the Red King sinks the Crimson as reparation. Now, there is no way to aid Shido.

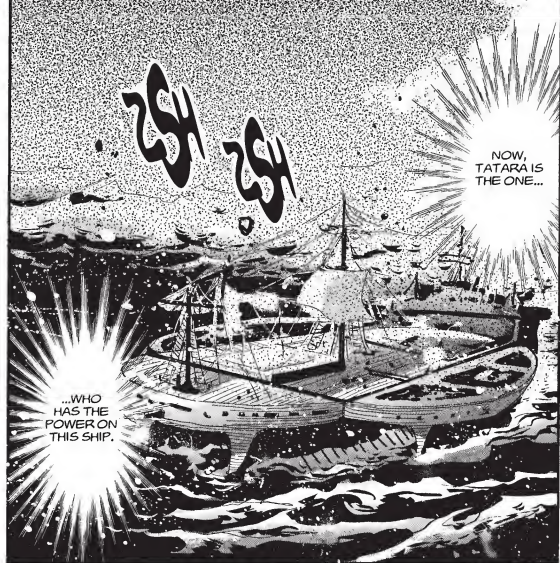


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...WHO
HAS THE
POWER ON
THIS SHIP.

NOW,
TATARA IS
THE ONE...



IT'S JUST
NOT FAIR.

GRUMBLE

AND
HAYATO
IS EVEN
SMALLER
THAN ME...



TATARA,
I'LL DO
THIS, YOU
SHOULD
EAT!

HUP



IT'S
A
TRUE
ART.



YES.
A
MYSTERIOUS
BOY.



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT,
TATARA.
EAT AND
REST.

CAN GIRLS
GET THAT
STRONG,
TOO, IF THEY
EXERCISE
ENOUGH?

WHAT
THE HECK
IS HE
DOING?



THIS
SHIP'S
STORES
HAVE
EVERY-
THING IN
STOCK!



TO TURN
ADVERSITY INTO
AN ADVANTAGE...



THEY
MUST HAVE
SUFFERED
SIGNIFICANT
CASUALTIES,
TOO.

THE
QUESTION
IS, HOW THE
RED ARMY
WILL
REACT?

THEY
MIGHT
PULL
BACK.



AND SHE
KNOWS THE
SHORELINE
LIKE THE
BACK OF HER
HAND.

THEY CAN
USE OUR
HIDDEN
BOATS.

PLUS WE
JUST SENT
UP A
FLARE.

SHE'LL FIND
A WAY TO
CONTACT
US SOON.



ZAKI.

WE
HAVE TO
LOOK
FOR
CHACHA
AND THE
OTHERS.

THEY'LL
BE
FINE.



I
COULD
CRUSH
THEM
NOW.

PULL
BACK!?

I
WON'T
LET
THEM.

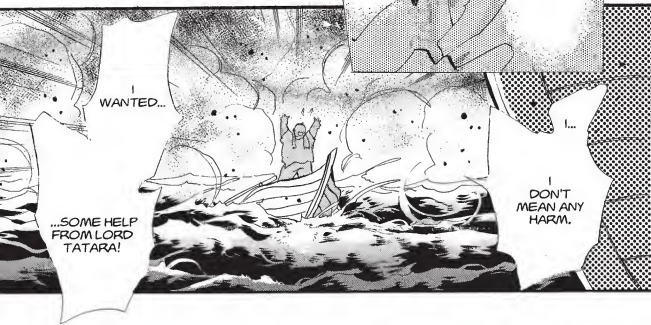
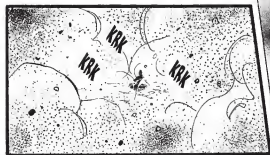


...ANNIHILATE
THEM.

I
COULD...



ANNIHILATE...?





IT'S A VILLAGE TOO SMALL TO BE ON ANY MAP.

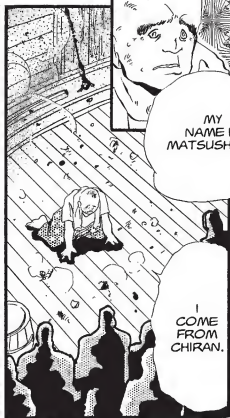
THE RED ARMY SWEEPED THROUGH IT THIS MORNING.



CHIRAN?

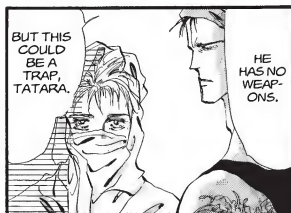
IS THERE A VILLAGE THERE?

ISN'T IT JUST FULL OF RUINS?



MY NAME IS MATSUSHIRO.

I COME FROM CHIRAN.



BUT THIS COULD BE A TRAP, TATARA.

HE HAS NO WEAPONS.



THEY SEEMED ANGRY OVER SOMETHING, AND THEY TOOK IT OUT ON OUR VILLAGE.

THEY TOOK WHAT LITTLE FOOD AND WATER WE HAD.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO TO THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

P...

PLEASE, HELP US.



...A FRIEND!?

THEY'VE CAPTURED A FRIEND OF YOURS, TOO.

I SAW THE SOLDIERS TAKING HIM AWAY.



HE
WORE
A BLUE
CLOAK.

AND
HE HAD
A PATCH
OVER
ONE
EYE.

AGEHA!?

AGEHA...

...CAPTURED
BY SHIDO'S
ARMY!?

TATARA!

STOP!

BAM

BECAUSE
HE WAS
HELPING
US!

THEY
HAVE
HIM...

IF IT HAD
BEEN ME, I
DON'T THINK...

...I
COULD
HAVE
SACRIFICED AN
EYE FOR A GIRL I
DIDN'T KNOW.

!?

IF THIS IS
A TRAP,
WE LOSE
EVERYTHING.

WOULD
MAGARA
BE
QUIETLY
LED AWAY?

ZAKI...

TATARA,
THIS IS
DANGEROUS.

I
HAVE A
BAD
FEELING
ABOUT IT.

BORROWED ROBE

WE DON'T
WANT TO STAND
OUT AS A
CROWD.
DON'T WORRY.
I'M JUST GOING
TO TAKE A LOOK
AROUND.

BUT...

YOU GO
HELP
CHACHA AND
KAKU.

YOU
SHOULD
TAKE
MEN
WITH
YOU.

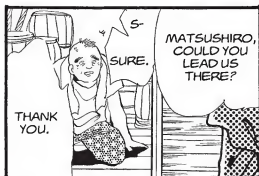
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT THE
OLDER
PEOPLE, AND
YATO AND
SHINBASHI.

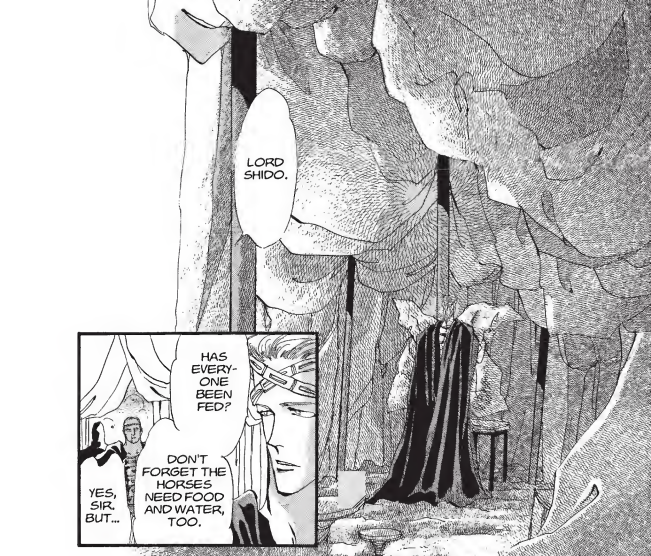
I
PROM-
ISED
HIM...

...IF HE
EVER
GOT IN
TROU-
BLE.

...THAT
I'D
HELP
HIM...







LORD
SHIDO.



HAS EVERY-
ONE BEEN
FED?

DON'T FORGET THE
HORSES
NEED FOOD
AND WATER,
TOO.

YES,
SIR.
BUT...



I THINK I
WAS
MISTAKEN.

SIR...
ABOUT
WHAT?



TSUKISHIRO,

MATSURAGI,

TSUZUKI.

SIR?

HAVE
A
SEAT.



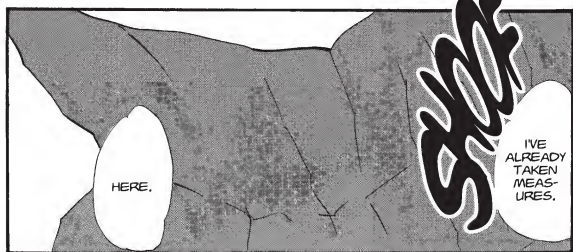
I
DON'T
WANT
TO
SAY
THIS...

...BUT WE
SHOULD
RETREAT
AND
REGROUP.



THERE'S
BEEN A
MARKED
DROP IN THE
TROOPS' MORALE, SIR.

THEY ALL
FEEL
SOME-
THING
OMINOUS.



JUDGING BY HIS
PREVIOUS
ACTIONS, TATARA
SEEMS TO BE A
VERY SENTIMENTAL
PERSON.

YOU'LL
WORK
WELL AS
BAIT.

YOU'LL HELP
ME OUT IN
THIS.

AGE-
HA.

JUST
LIKE
THE
RED
KING.

YOU LOOK
MOST ALIVE
WHEN YOU'RE
SCHEMING.



COME
WITH
ME.

GET
UP.





LORD SHIDO!



D-DAMN HIM!

WSH

WSH



...BE-
TWEEN
YOU

AND
TATARA...

...WHICH
OF YOU IS
MOVING WITH
THE FLOW OF
HISTORY?

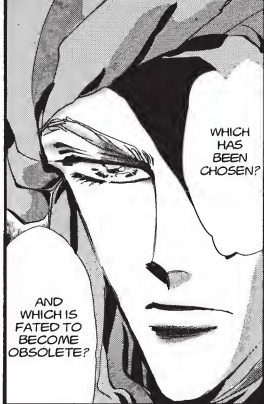
HAVE
YOU EVER
WONDERED

SHIDO...



THE
RED
KING...

...WILL BE
THE ONLY
ONE TO
BE
CHOSEN.



WHICH
HAS
BEEN
CHOSEN?

AND
WHICH IS
FATED TO
BECOME
OBSOLETE?



HE LIKES
TO FEEL
IMPOR-
TANT.

THINGS
ARE GOING
WELL AS
LONG
AS HE'S
SLINGING
MUD.



LORD
SHIDO!

JUST
WAIT.

MAY
WE
KILL
HIM!?

HE'S
HARM-
LESS.



I'M
GLAD WE
UNDER-
STAND
EACH
OTHER.

NOW,
THEN...

LET'S
GO.



YOU LEFT
A MARK

YOU NEVER
DOUBT
YOURSELF,
DO YOU?

FINE.

DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT.
I CAN'T EVEN
TALK TO
YOU.



KLANK

WHMP



LORD SHIDO FELT SORRY FOR HIM.

AND SINCE THEY WERE THE SAME AGE...

...HE LOOKED AFTER HIM A LOT.



THAT MAN USED TO BE LORD SHIDO'S FATHER'S SLAVE. KEPT FOR PLEASURE.

OH.

HE DOES HAVE A PRETTY FACE.



THIS WAS BEFORE YOUR TIME, BUT...



WHY DOES LORD SHIDO KEEP SUCH A DANGEROUS MAN AROUND?



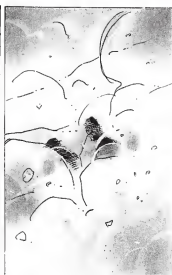
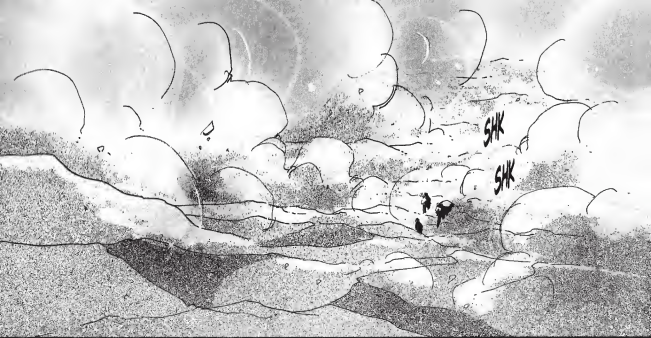
HE HAS NO RIGHT TO BE BITTER.

SO HE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.

WHO KNOWS?

HOW COULD WE FATHOM...

THE FEELINGS OF A SLAVE?



I WISH
YATO
WERE
HERE.



IT'S JUST
A LITTLE
BIT
FURTHER

IT'S
SO
HOT!

ARE
WE
THERE
YET?

ASH
RAINING
HERE,
TOO.



THERE
IT
IS.

THE
VILLAGE
IS JUST
OVER THE
RIDGE.



SO
EERIE...



JUST
STATUES.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT KIND OF
RUINS THEY ARE,
BUT THERE ARE
A LOT OF 'EM
AROUND HERE.

THERE'S
SOMEONE
THERE!



A FEW
YEARS
AGO, THIS
WAS ALSO THE
PLACE

WHERE
THE
REGIONAL
TRIBES WHO
STILL RESISTED
THE RED KING
WERE HOLED UP.

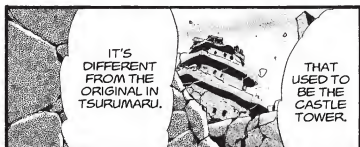
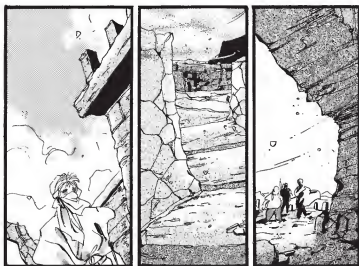
THEY
WERE
WIPED OUT,
THOUGH.

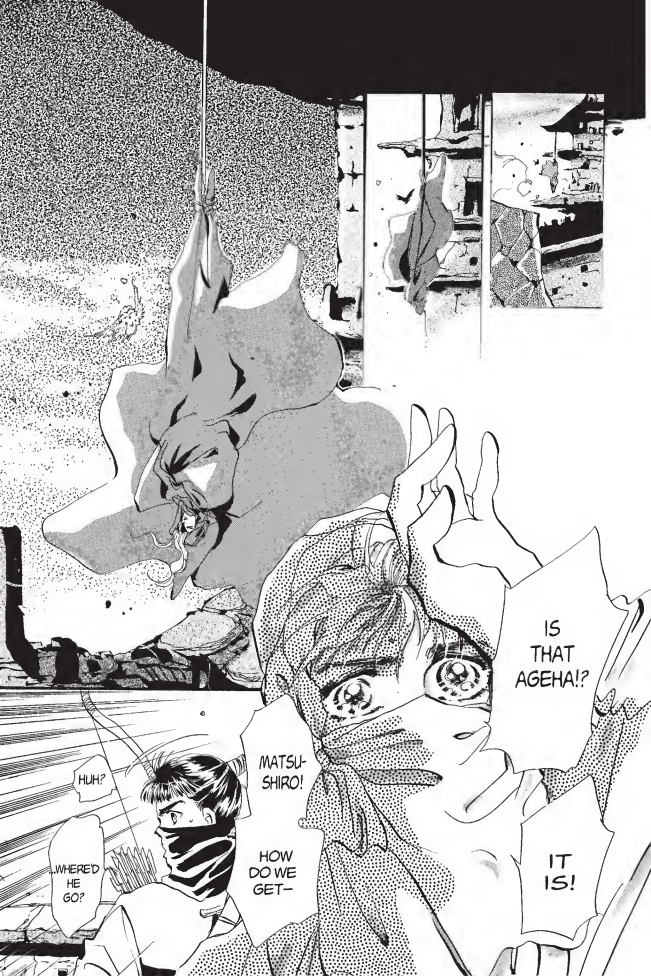
THESE
ARE THE
RUINS OF A
CASTLE.

THEY'RE
BASED ON THE
OLD TSURUMARU
CASTLE UP NORTH, IN
THE CITY OF
KAGOSHIMA.

ACCORDING
TO
LEGEND...

THIS
WAS THE
BASE FOR A
KAMIKAZE
SQUAD IN THE
ANCIENT WAR.





IS
THAT
AGEHA!?

MATSU-
SHIRO!

HOW
DO WE
GET-

IT
IS!

HUH?

...WHERE'D
HE
GO?



HYOOP



MATSU-SHIRO?

HE'S GONE!

FTT

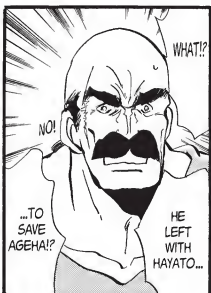
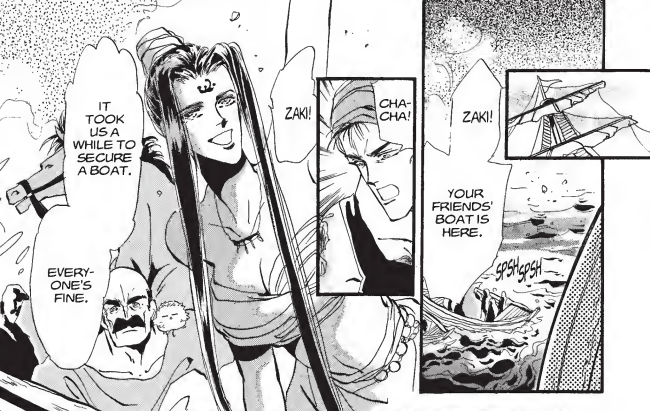
FTT

HUH?

THP

THP

THP THP





WHERE'S
THE
WAY
OUT?

I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHICH
DIRECTION
I'M FACING
ANYMORE!



KSH

AH!



HFF

A
TRAP!



WE'RE JUST
TIRING
OURSELVES
OUT LIKE
THIS.

HFF
HFF

TATARA!

WE CAN'T
TELL WHERE
THEY'RE
SHOOTING
FROM.



WHOA!

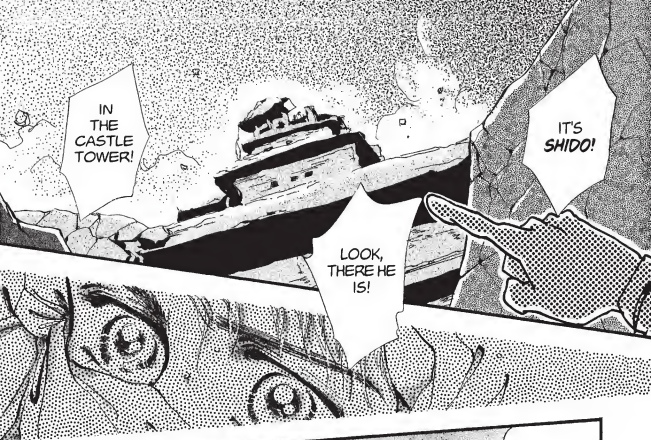
RMM

DOOM



HFF
HFF

IT
WAS A
TRAP.



IN
THE
CASTLE
TOWER!

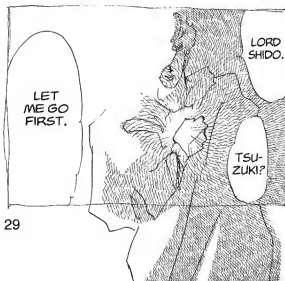
IT'S
SHIDO!

LOOK,
THERE HE
IS!



THEY LOOK
LIKE
CHILDREN
TO ME.

I DIDN'T
THINK THEY'D
BE TRICKED
SO EASILY.
LORD
SHIDO...



LET
ME GO
FIRST.

LORD
SHIDO.

TSU-
ZUKI?



THEY
CRUSHED
THE
FUJIN.

YES,
SIR.

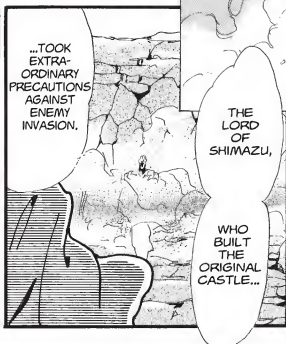
THE RED
KING CON-
QUERED
KYUSHU
WHEN HE
WAS
FIFTEEN,
TSUKISHIRO.

DON'T
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
THEM.



TA-TARA!









ZAKI'S
WARN-
ING...

SHK
FST

...HAS
PROVEN
USEFUL!

THAT
ROPE...

CAN
YOU
CUT IT
WITH YOUR
ARROW?

YEAH!

THE
WALL'S
BROKEN!

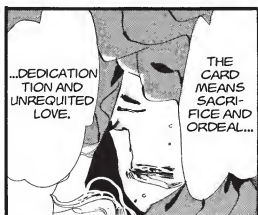
HA-
YATO...

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU USE
THOSE
SWORDS?

I'LL
GO.

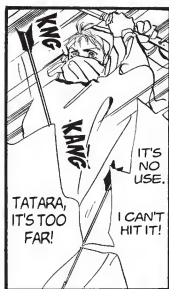
MATSURAGI,
I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU.

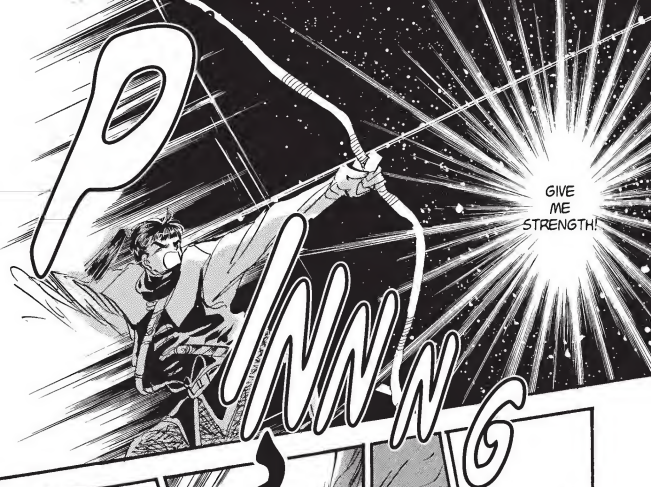
TSUZUKI!

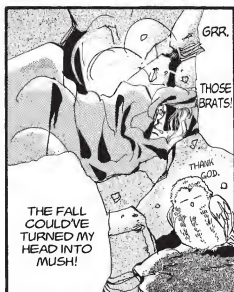


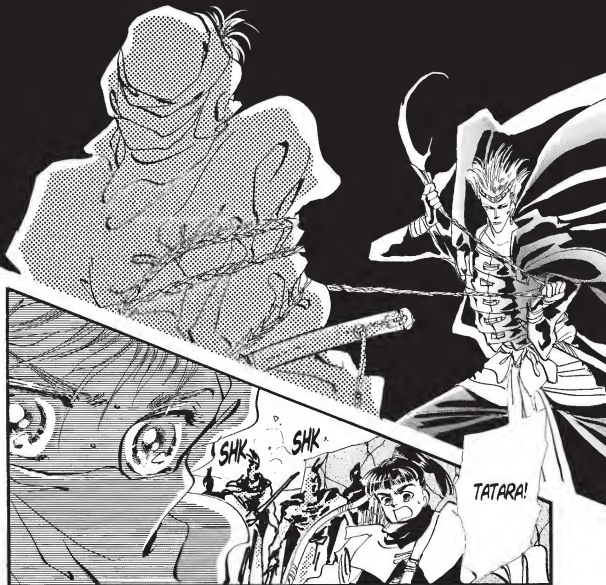
I FEEL LIKE...

"THE HANGED MAN" FROM A DECK OF TAROT CARDS.











SOMEONE
SANK A
FOREIGN
MERCHANT
SHIP.

A
BATTLE
BROKE
OUT.
THEN...

AS AN
APOLOGY
TO THE
FOREIGNERS...

AND TO
HALT THE
BATTLE.

THE
RED
KING SANK
IT HIMSELF.



OH,
SHURI.

...THAT I
COULD BE
BY YOUR
SIDE AT
THIS
MOMENT!

HOW
I WISH...



SHURI...



NOW,
THEY'RE
GATHERING
FOR
NEGOTIATIONS

THEY
HOPE TO GET
THROUGH THIS
WITHOUT AN
INTER-
NATIONAL
INCIDENT.



DID THE
TOKUGAWA
REGIME...THE
JAPANESE
EMPIRE...

HITLER...
HUSSEIN...

DID THEY
REALLY
NOT SEE
IT
COMING?

HAVE YOU
REALLY NOT
NOTICED?

ALL
BECAUSE
OF TATARA!

SHIDO.

THERE'S
A SIGNAL
THAT'S
SOUNDING
FOR
TATARA...

...AND
FOR
YOU.

CAN'T
YOU
HEAR
IT!?

DON'T
YOU
WONDER?

SAKURAJIMA
SENDS ITS SIGNAL.



ARE
THEY
REALLY
NOT
AWARE
OF IT!?

EMERALD TALE 1: THE HERO

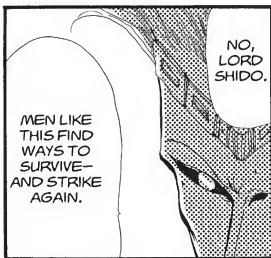
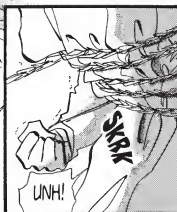
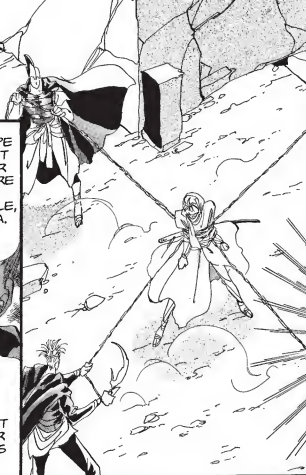




THIS TIME,
IT WILL
BE YOUR
DEATH!

TATARA!

ON

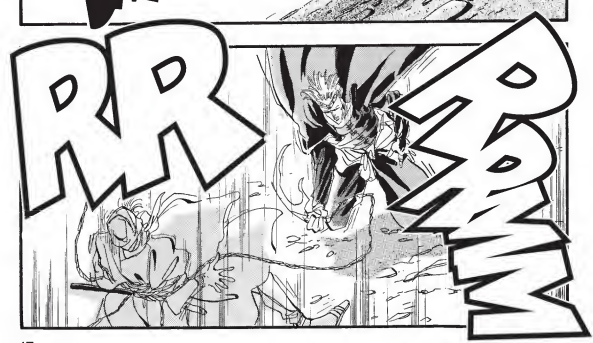




WHILE
WE HAVE
THE
CHANCE!

WE
MUST
KILL
HIM—

PREPARE
YOURSELF!











KRAK

HOW-

NAGI!

R R R

HOW DO
I SWIM
WITH
THIS!?

NAGI!

...OUR
POWERS
ARE
NOTHING.

BEFORE
THE
POWERS
OF
NATURE...



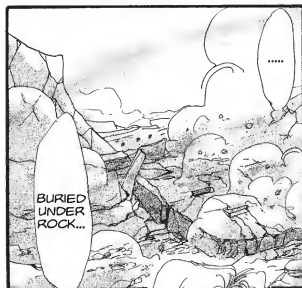
WE MUST
LEARN TO
SWIM WITH
NATURE,
NOT FLAIL
AGAINST ITS
TIDE.

**AA
AA
AA**

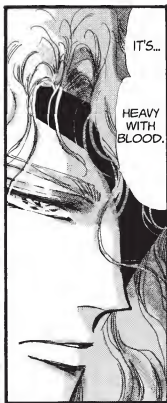
**SHUK
SHUK**

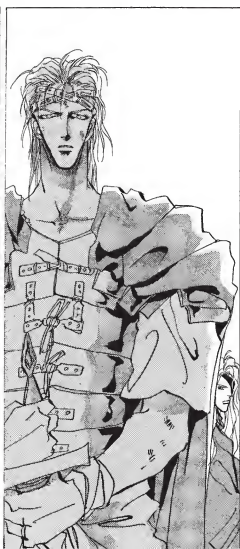
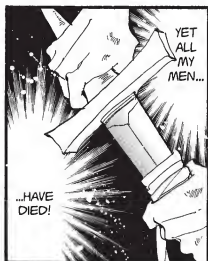
TOOOOM





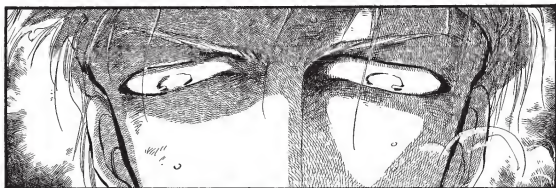












I
HAVE
TO.

NO
MATTER
WHAT.

OHH!

I
HAVE TO
FINISH
HIM!

HERE
AND
NOW.

HEE
HEE

KRSH

SHAK



NO!



IT HURTS!

I'LL DIE.

HE'S GOING TO KILL ME.



MY LEFT LEG WON'T MOVE.

IT HURTS...



NOT UNTIL I DEFEAT THE RED KING!



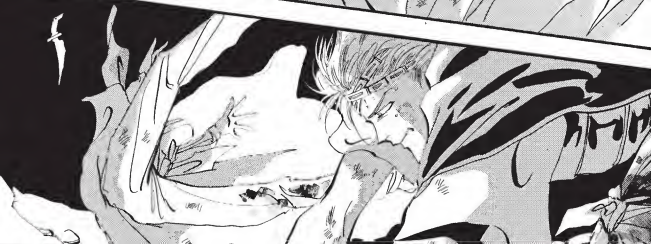
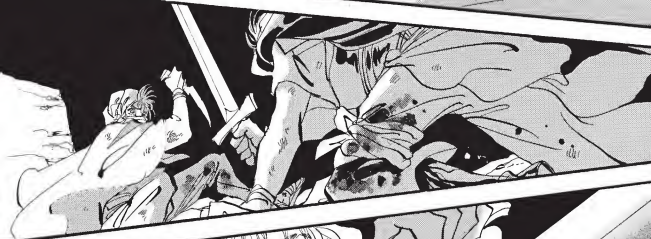
...WHO WERE TAKEN AWAY TO KYOTO.

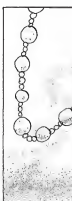
NOT UNTIL I RESCUE THE VILLAGERS...

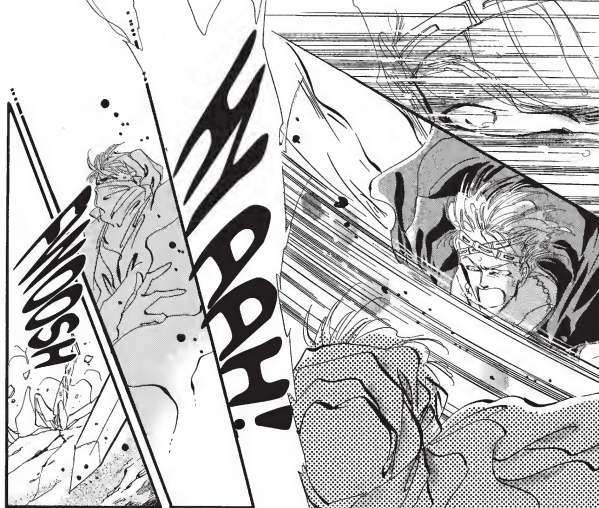


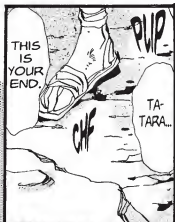
...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

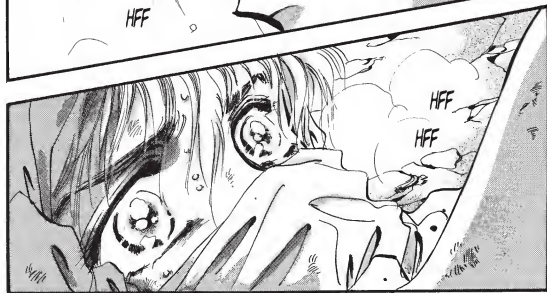
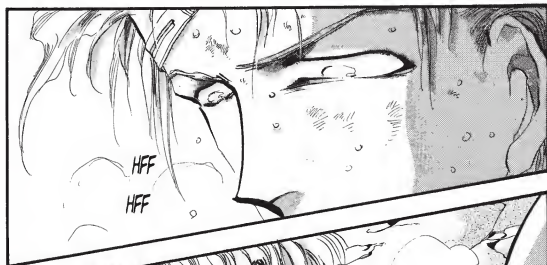
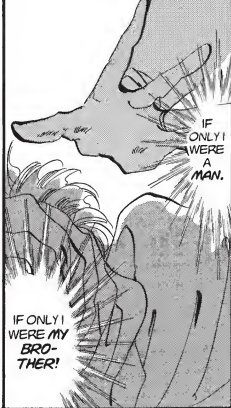
I CAN'T DIE...

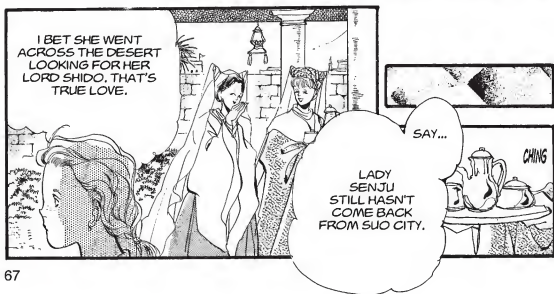


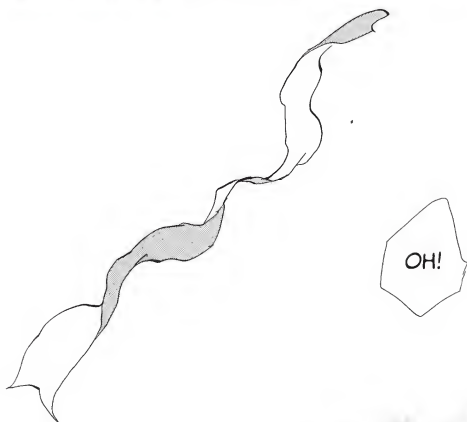


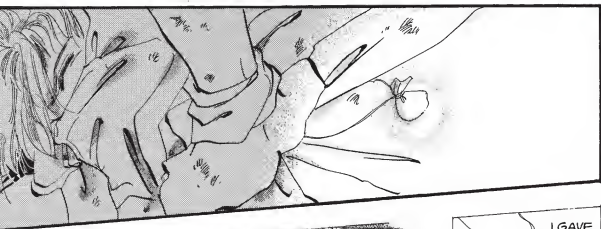






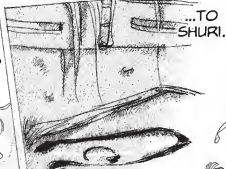






IT'S
A
PRESENT!

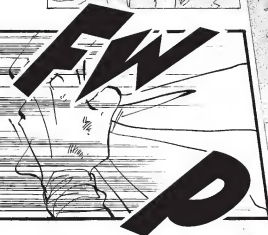
THIS?



...TO
SHURI.



I GAVE
THAT...

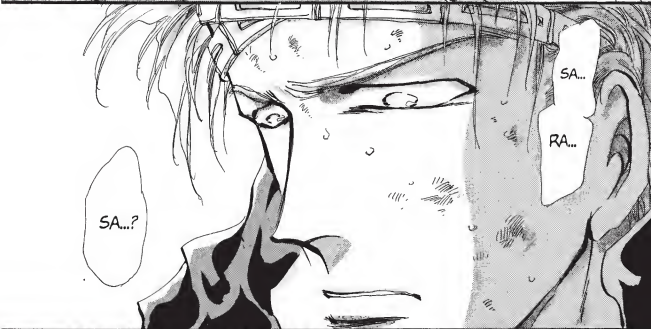


MM.
BUT
NOT
INTER-
ESTED.

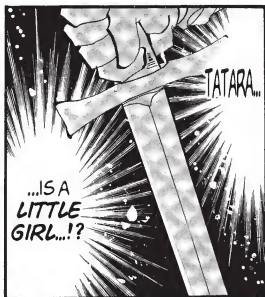
SHE
MUST
HAVE
BEEN
CUTE.

GAVE
THEM
AWAY.

WHAT
DID YOU
DO WITH
THE OLIVE
SEEDS I
GAVE
YOU?



THEY
LOVE
EACH
OTHER...



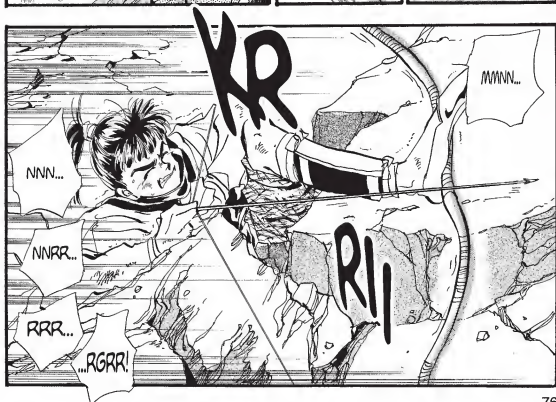
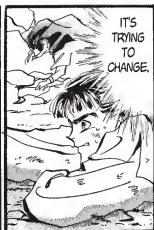
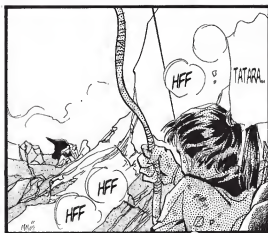




THE
SUZAKU
SWORD!

POOOOM





SHE IS...

TATARA!

SH 'OOO!!

SS SS

TATARA!

SHE IS...

SH

SS

SS

TATARA!

SHE IS...

SH

SS

SS

TATARA!

SHE IS...

SH

SS

SS

SHE IS...

TATARA!

SH 'OOO!!

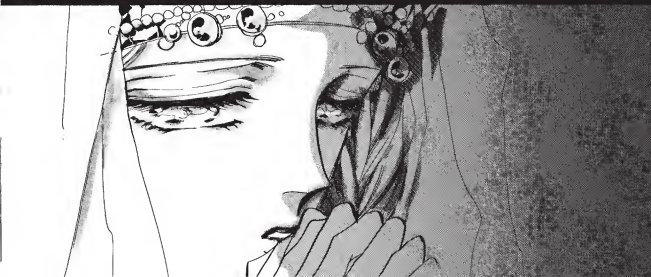
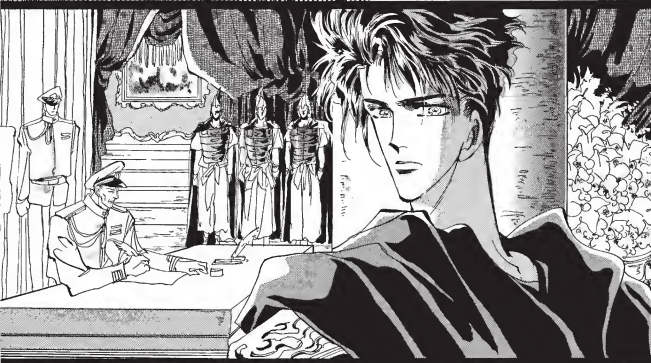
SS SS

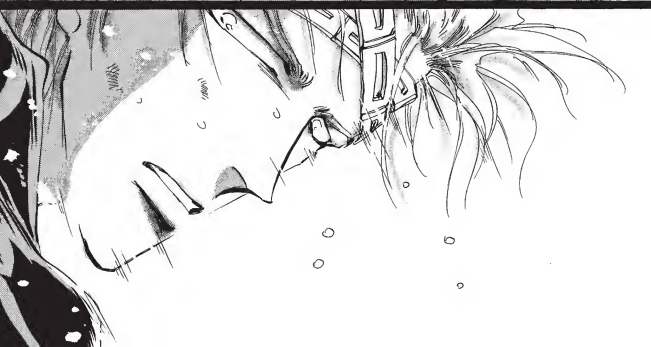
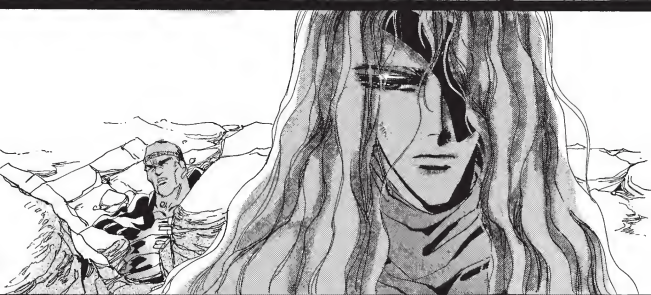
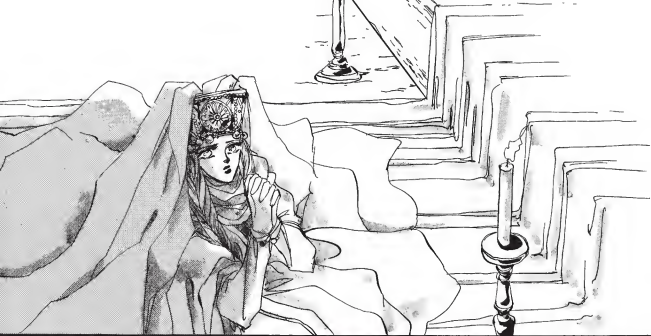
SHE IS...

TATARA!

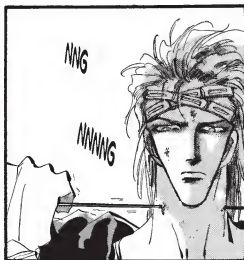
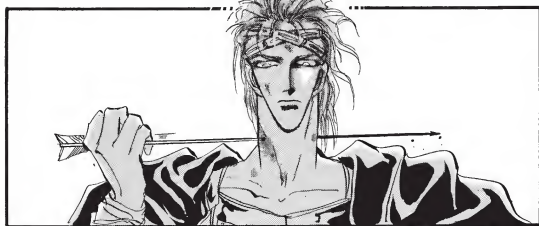
SH 'OOO!!

SS SS













SHURIIIIIIII!!

SHURI!



WHY...
IS MY
ARMOR...

WHAT...
AM I
DOING?

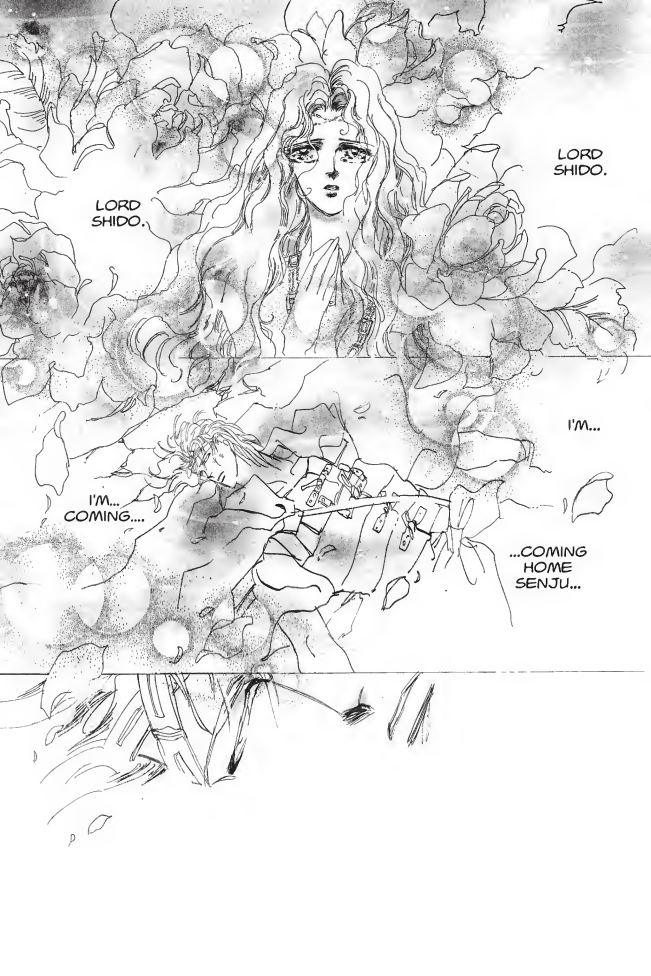
GET
UP.

...SO
HEAVY?

SCHE

HAVE TO
GO...

I
HAVE TO
GO
HOME.



LORD
SHIDO.

LORD
SHIDO.

I'M...

I'M...
COMING....

...COMING
HOME
SENJU...

...THAT
MY
DEATH...

I
HOPE...

...WILL BE
TOLD TO
HER
GENTLY...





SIGNAL
FIRE→

GET
OUT!

RMM

TA-
TARA!

HURRY!

COME
THIS
WAY!

IF THIS
BRIDGE
FALLS,
THERE'LL
BE NO
EASY WAY
OUT!

WE
HAVE TO
REIN-
FORCE
IT!

DM

RMMM

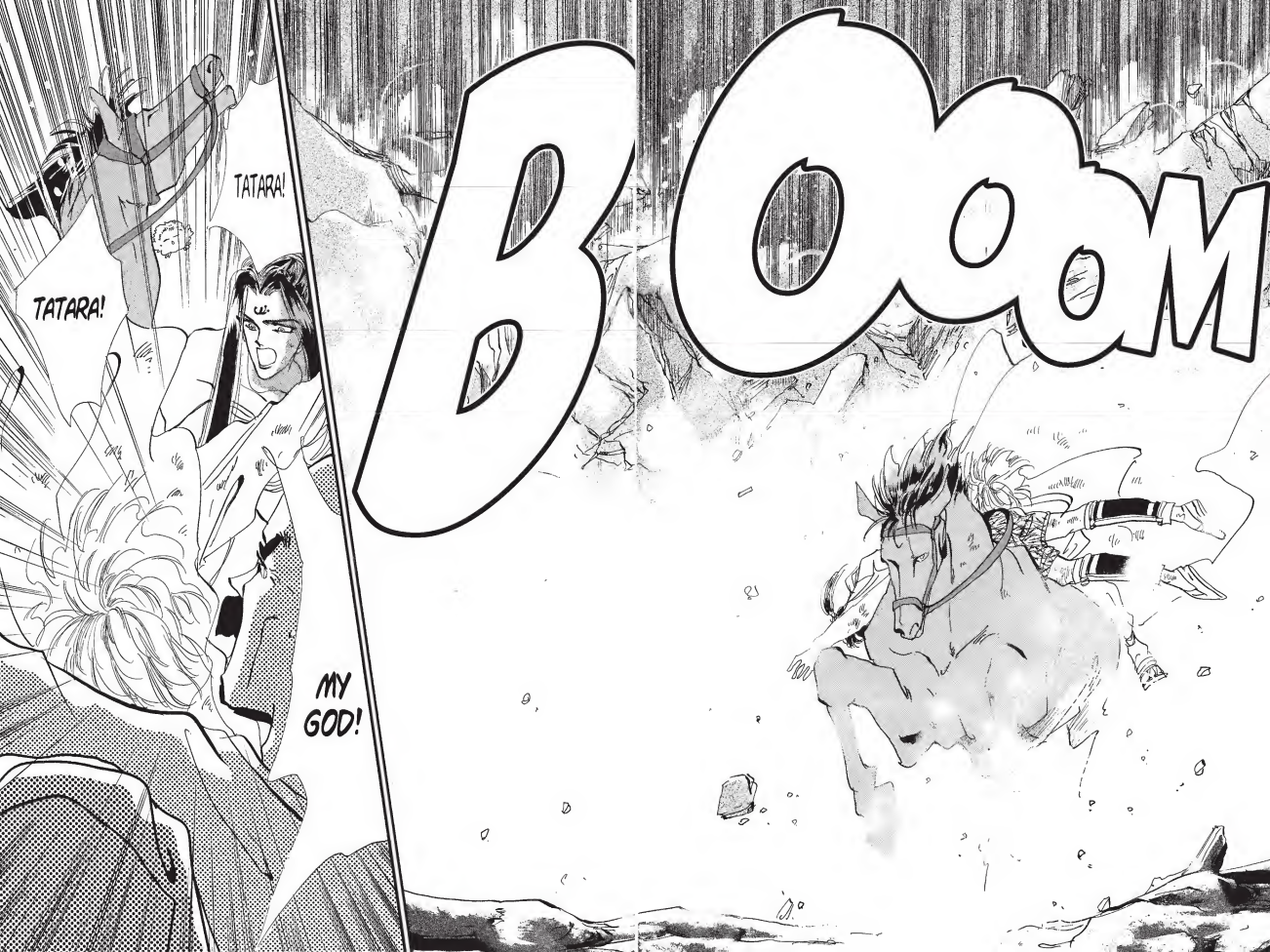
OH,
NO!

THE
WHOLE
PLACE
WILL
COL-
LAPSE!

ANOTHER
BIG
ONE!

R R R R R

TATARA!

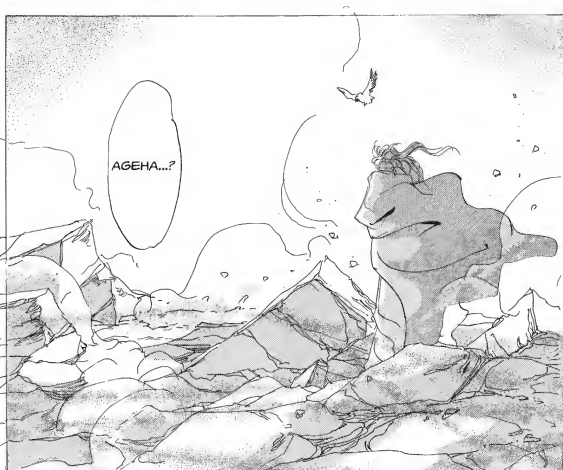
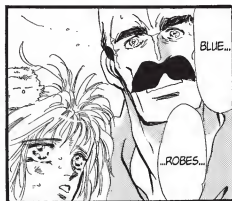


BOOM

TATARA!

TATARA!

MY
GOD!



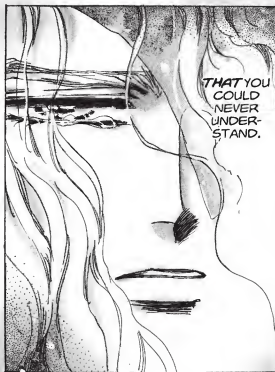


...LIKE A
PET...

YOU PITIED
ME AND
TOOK CARE
OF ME...



YOU WERE
A KIND
MASTER TO
A SLAVE
CHILD.



THAT YOU
COULD
NEVER
UNDER-
STAND.

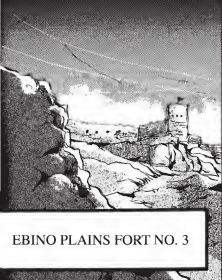
I AM A
MAN.

I AM
YOUR
EQUAL.



YOU
THOUGHT
I WAS
HAPPY?

YOU
TRULY
BELIEVED
THAT MADE
ME HAPPY,
SHIDO!?



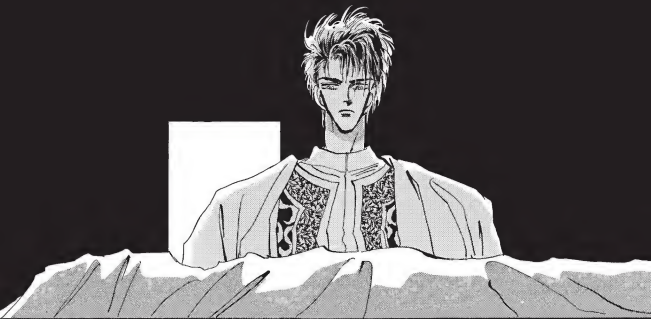
EBINO PLAINS FORT NO. 3



NEVER.

AND NOW...

...YOU
NEVER
WILL...



JUST
AS HE
WAS
ABOUT
TO
FINISH
HIM...

HE
HESITATED
FOR SOME
REASON.

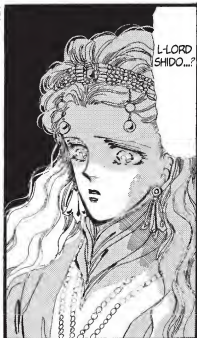


WHEN
I AWOKE
IN THE
RUBBLE...

LORD
SHIDO WAS
FIGHTING
TATARA. HE'D
JUST PINNED
HIM DOWN.



SFF



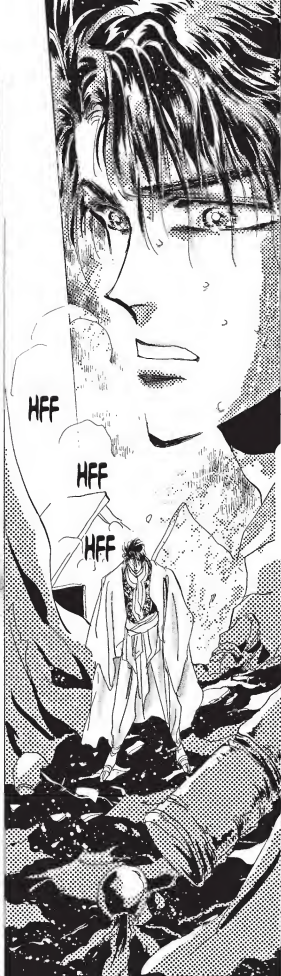
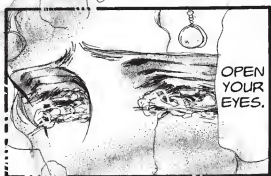
L-LORD
SHIDO...?

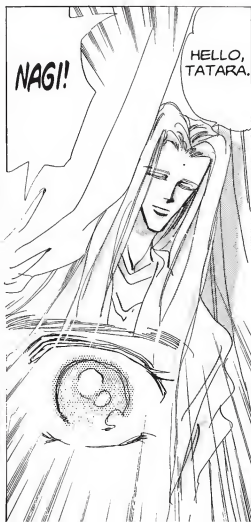


HESITATED!?

AND
THEN AN
ARROW...

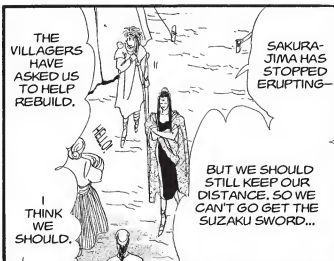








IT FEELS STRANGE...



WE ALL CAME FROM THE SAME VILLAGE, AFTER ALL.



I CAME
LOOKING FOR
THE SUZAKU
SWORD...

...AND FOUND
SO MANY FRIENDS.
GRANDPA...
I'M DOING THE RIGHT
THING BY LOOKING FOR
THE FOUR SWORDS,
AREN'T I?



...YOUR
DREAM IS
BECOMING
A REALITY.

AT
LAST...



RASHO...

HE'S SO
YOUNG!

IS THAT
LORD
TATARA?

WOW.

LORD
TATARA!

THERE ARE
A LOT OF
PEOPLE FROM
THE KANTO
REGION WHO
BARELY
ESCAPED WITH
THEIR LIVES.

IT
MUST
BE A
TERRIBLE
PLACE.

TATARA,
DO YOU
WANT TO
HEAR THEIR
STORY?

THERE
ARE A
LOT OF
PEOPLE
TO SEE
YOU.

TATARA!
COME
HERE A
SECOND.



THEY'VE
HEARD
RUMORS.

FROM ALL
OVER THE
COUNTRY,
THEY'VE
COME TO
ASK FOR
HELP.



YOU
WILL
DIE!

TATARA!



WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING!?

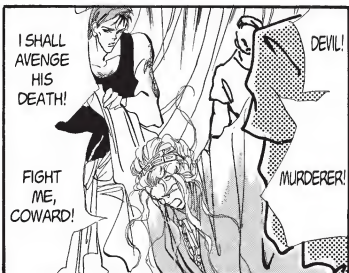
HEY!
PIN
HER!

STOP
HER!

TATARA,
THIS WAY!

WHOA!

FCH



WHO
ARE YOU
CALLING A
MURDERER!?







I
SWEAR
IT!

REMEM-
BER
THIS!

TATARA!

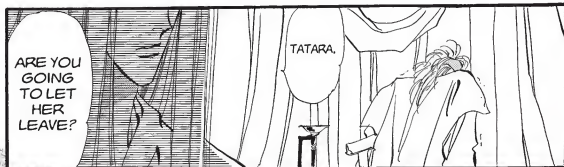
I
SHALL
KILL YOU
ONE
DAY!

COME
WITH
ME.

I'LL
SHOW
YOU
OUT.

PLEASE.
GO.

THIS IS
NOT A
PLACE
FOR A
PERSON
LIKE YOU.



ARE YOU
GOING
TO LET
HER
LEAVE?

TATARA.

WILL
YOU
STILL
LET HER
LEAVE?

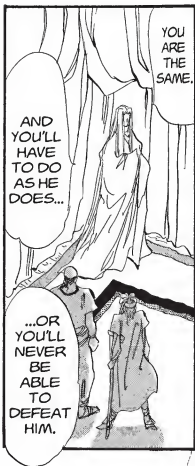
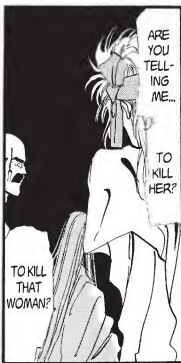
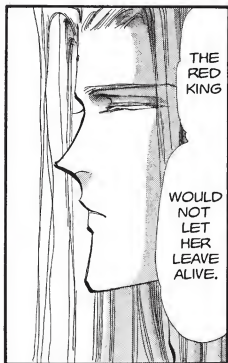
HER
BABY IS
SHIDO'S
CHILD.

THE
MOTHER
WILL
TEACH IT
TO HATE
YOU.

ONE DAY IT
WILL COME
FOR
REVENGE.



....WHAT?



DIDN'T
YOU
CRUSH
SHIDO'S
ARMY?

NAGI!
WHY!?

HOW CAN
YOU SAY
THAT SO
CALMLY!?

AND
WHY
NOT?

NAGI!

SO ARE
YOU
GOING TO
LET HER
LEAVE?

WHY?

WHY
ARE YOU
SAYING
THIS?

NAGI!

NO.

STOP
IT.

NAGI!

TATARA,
STOP IT!

SHIDO IS
RESTLESS
IN HIS
GRAVE...
ASHAMED.

YOU'RE
STILL A
SPOILED
CHILD.

HE CAN'T
SHED
TEARS
EVEN WHEN
HE WANTS
TO WEEP.

NAGI'S
EYES.

THEY CAN'T CRY.

DON'T
YOU
CARE!?

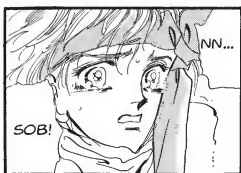
IS THAT WHY
YOU NEVER
WARNED US
WHEN YOU
FORESAW BAD
THINGS
COMING?

NEVER,

NEVER,

WHEN THE
VILLAGE
WAS UNDER
ATTACK...

WHEN
GRANDPA
DIED...
YOU
NEVER
SHED ONE
TEAR!





THE RED
SOLDIERS
WHO
DIED...

THEY ALL
HAD
FAMILIES.



BUT SHE
WALKED
THROUGH
THE
DUST...

...HER FEET ALL
SCRATCHED UP.



SHE
LOOKED LIKE
A PRINCESS.



SHIDO.

...AND A
BABY.

HE
HAD A
WIFE...



I'M
NOT
LIKE
THE
RED
KING!

NO!



PEOPLE
WHOSE
LOVED ONES
WERE KILLED
HATE THEIR
KILLERS....

JUST LIKE
US...



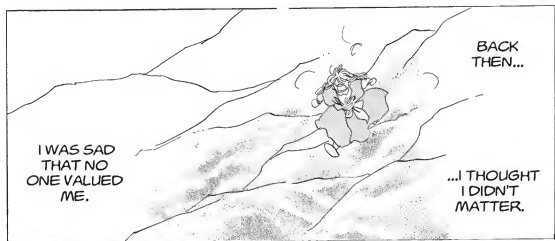
THEY
WERENT
DEMONS.

THEY AREN'T
DEMONS.



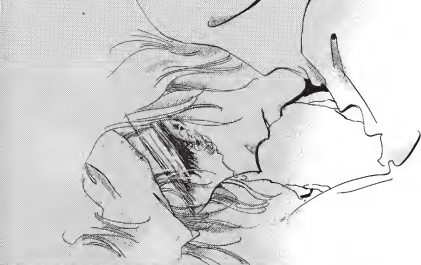
YES,
I AM!

YES!

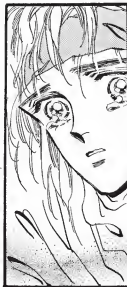
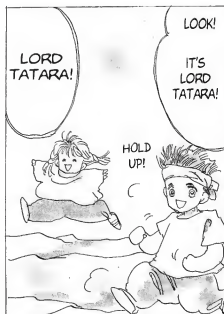


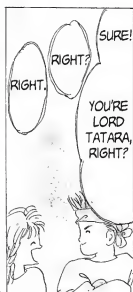
TOO
MUCH!





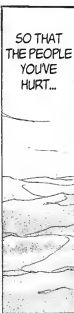
TP
TP
TP







...WILL
COME TO
RESPECT
YOU.



SO THAT
THE PEOPLE
YOU'VE
HURT...



THEN
TRY
HARDER.



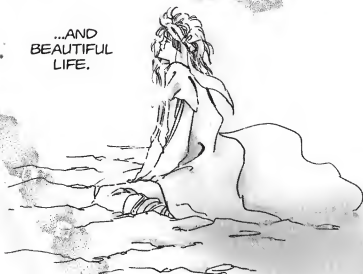
BUT
PEOPLE
ARE
GETTING
HURT!

MOM!

A LOT OF
PEOPLE
END UP
GETTING
HURT!

...AND
BEAUTIFUL
LIFE.

LIVE A
DIGNIFIED...

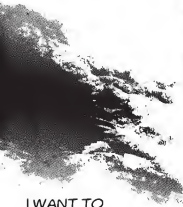




I
WANT
TO BE
HAPPY.



AM I BEING
ARROGANT...



I WANT TO
MAKE A
COUNTRY
WHERE
EVERYONE
CAN LIVE
IN PEACE,
FREE FROM
FEAR.



SOMEDAY...

...THINKING
THAT I CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?

BUT...



SOB WAAA

WAAA
WAAA



WH-
WHAT'S
WRONG?

WAAA



THIS IS
REAL.

A
LITTLE
BOY?



NOW
MOMMY
AND
DADDY
ARE
GONE.

PEOPLE
IN RED
CAME.

THEN THE
OCEAN
BLEW UP...

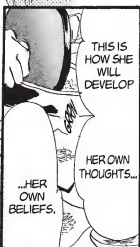
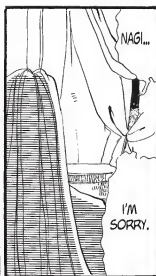


I'M
THIRSTY.

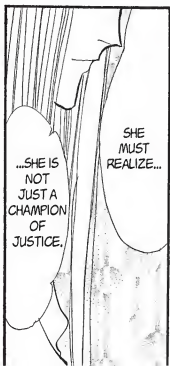
ARE YOU
HUNGRY?

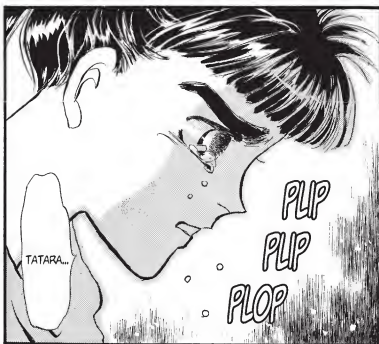
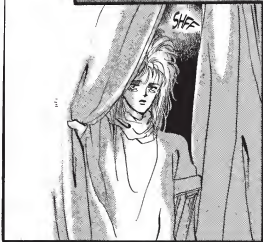
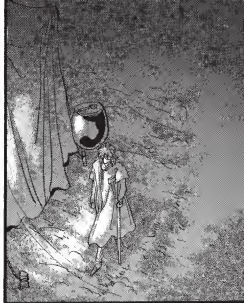
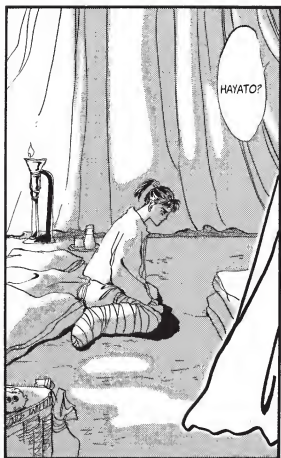
THE RED
ARMY
AND THE
ERUPTION...

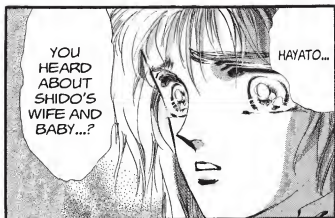
COME
WITH ME.



HE'S MAKING MEDICINE.







YOU
HEARD
ABOUT
SHIDO'S
WIFE AND
BABY...?

HAYATO...



...WHEN I
WAS A KID.

I LOST
MY PA...



THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEANT
TO DO!

BUT THAT
BABY LOST
ITS PA
BEFORE IT
WAS EVEN
BORN!



DID I DO A
BAD THING!?

AM I A
BAD
PERSON
NOW!?

TATARA!

TELL ME!



I THOUGHT HE
DESERVED IT.

BUT
NOW...

I
DON'T
KNOW
ANY-
MORE.

WAS I
WRONG...

...TO KILL
SHIDO...!?





IF IT
HELPED
YOU,
THAT'S
ENOUGH
FOR ME!







...I WANT TO
SEE YOU.



I'LL BE
HERE UNTIL
THE 23RD.

MAP

THAT'S
TONIGHT!

CAN I MAKE
IT IN TIME?

...I HAVE BUSINESS IN EBINO. I'LL BE GOING
TO THE HAMASHIDA HOT SPRINGS IN
KIRISHIMA EVERY NIGHT.
COME IF YOU CAN.



MAYBE THE
HOT WATER
WILL BE
GOOD FOR
MY LEG.

WANT TO
COME IN,
YATO?

I WONDER
WHAT
SHURI'S
JOB IS.



WHERE
IN
HAYASHIDA?

AH, WELL,
GUESS I'LL
HAVE TO
SEARCH.
IT'S HUGE.

YOU'D
BETTER
GET
HERE
SOON,
SHURI...

...OR I'LL
FALL
ASLEEP.

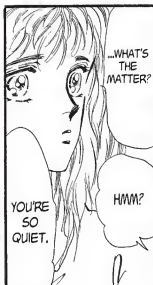
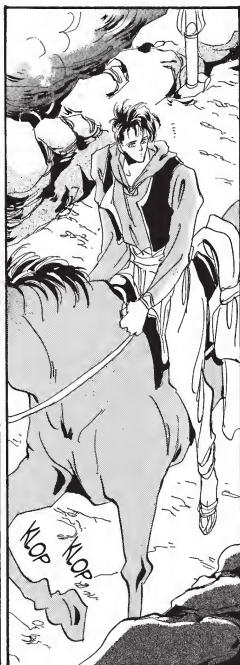
SPISH

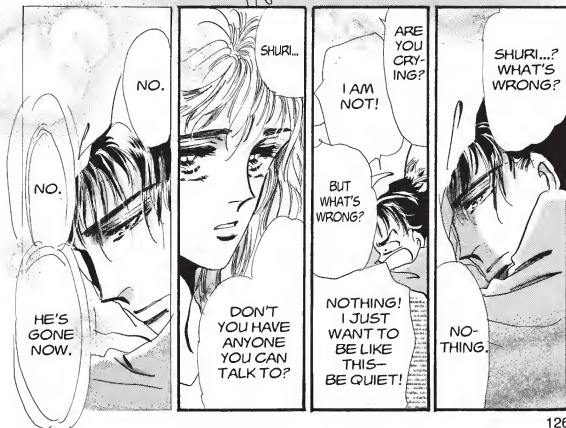


FEEL
TENSE.

WHY AM
I SO
NERVOUS?

THIS IS NOTHING?







YOU
BASTARD!



WHY DID
YOU
HESITATE,
SHIDO?

WHAT
WERE YOU
THINKING?
WHAT DID
YOU WANT
TO TELL
ME?

I
SHOULD'VE
FINISHED
OFF
TATARA
LONG
AGO.



I'M
THE
FOOL.



I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU!

TATARA!



I GET THAT
FEELING,
TOO, SOME-
TIMES.

WE
MUSTVE
MET.

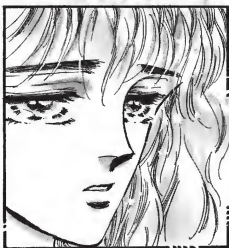
SOMEWHERE.



I
WONDER
WHY...

I FEEL AS
THOUGH...

I'VE
KNOWN
YOU FOR A
LONG
TIME.



BECAUSE
YOU'RE
PRACTI-
CALLY IN
TEARS.

YOU'RE
BEING
NICE.
UNUSUALLY
SO.

I AM
NOT.



I
WONDER
WHY...

I
WANTED
TO SEE
YOU
SO
MUCH.



ALONG
TIME
AGO.

SOME
WHERE.



MM... AS IF
BEING IN
SOMEONE
ELSE'S HOUSE
WEREN'T
HARD
ENOUGH...

WELL, THE
ERUPTION
KIND OF
CONFUSED
THINGS...

THAT WAS
MY STORY,
WASN'T IT?

OH...
YEAH.

HOW DO
LIKE
STAYING
WITH
YOUR REL-
ATIVES?

DON'T YOU
BE.



WE
MUST'VE
MET.



OF
WHAT?

PED-
DLING.

WHAT
WORK?

WELL...
FOR SOME
WORK.

I GUESS.

STUFF.

TRAVELING
BY MYSELF
WOULD BE
BORING.



THE
EAST!?

SAY.

TO DO
WHAT?

WANT TO
COME
WITH ME
TO KANTO?



GO GROW
BY YOURSELF!

WATO,
LET'S
GO.

WAIT. YOU
MIGHT AS
WELL
TAKE A
DIP.



MEN MUST
CHASE
WOMEN OR
THE NATION
WON'T
GROW.

MALE
LOGIC.



BESIDES, A TRIP
ALONE WITH YOU
WOULD BE
DANGEROUS.

HOW?

YOU'RE
A BIG
PERVERT!



NO.

I'M
NOT
GOING.

BECAUSE
I'M...

...I
CAN'T...



HA
HA
HA

YOU'D BETTER TAKE
YOUR CLOTHES OFF!

BOOSH

IDIOT!



YANK!

GYAA!



TATARA,
WAKE UP!

MMM
KAKU,
I'M
SLEEPY
...

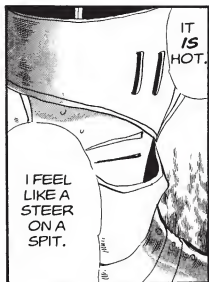
I
HAVE
LEFT MY
WEAPONS
BEHIND.

I
REQUEST
AN
AUDIENCE
WITH YOU.

I AM A
MES-
SENGER
FROM
THE
BLUE
KING OF
KANTO.

TATARA,
WE
HAVE A
GUEST.

I JUST
GOT
BACK.



IT
IS
HOT.

I FEEL
LIKE A
STEER
ON A
SPIT.



WHY DON'T
YOU TAKE
OFF YOUR
ARMOR?

IT MUST
BE HOT
IN THE
DESERT.



THE
BLUE
KING!?

THE
SECOND
ELDEST SON
OF KING
UKON-THE
RED KING'S
OLDER
BROTHER!

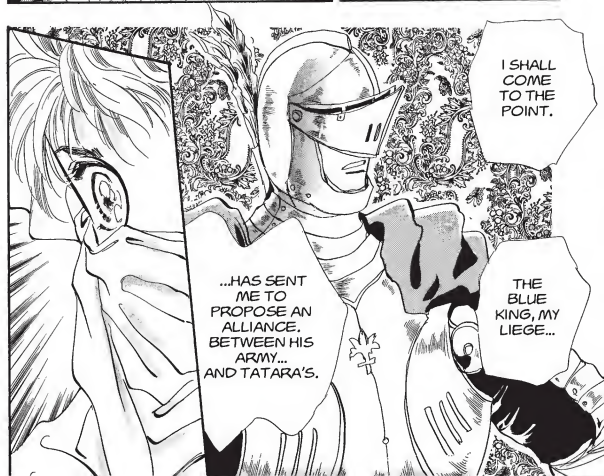


PLEASE...

DON'T
MIND
ME.

THEN
TAKE IT
OFF.

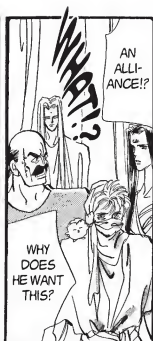
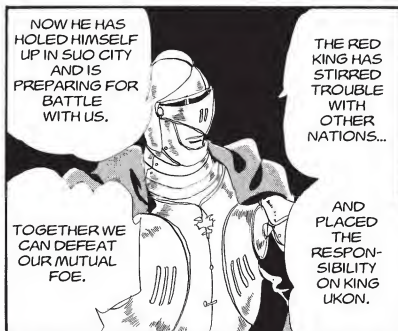
.....

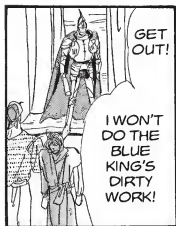


I SHALL
COME
TO THE
POINT.

...HAS SENT
ME TO
PROPOSE AN
ALLIANCE.
BETWEEN HIS
ARMY...
AND TATARA'S.

THE
BLUE
KING, MY
LIEGE...





GET OUT!

I WON'T DO THE BLUE KING'S DIRTY WORK!



I DO HATE THE RED KING.

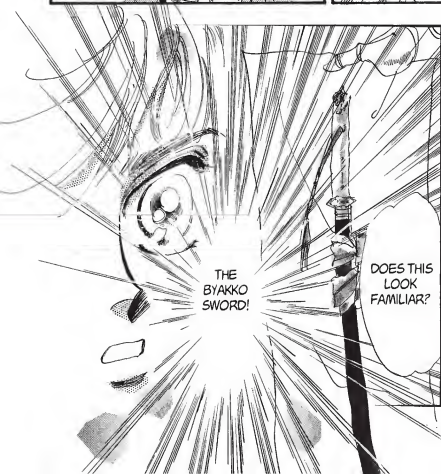
BUT A MAN WHO'D KILL HIS OWN BROTHER!?

HOW COULD I HELP SUCH A MAN?



I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO PERSUADE YOU.

YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.



THE BYAKKO SWORD!

DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR?



LOOK, THIS IS A SKETCH WE HAD MADE...

...OF WHAT WE FOUND IN THE RUBBLE IN CHIRAN.



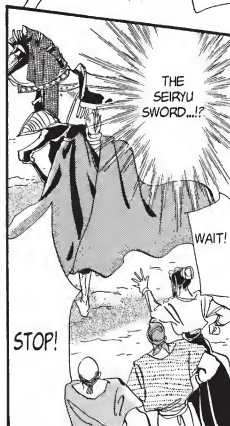
WAIT!

OUR MEN
HAVE
ALREADY
TAKEN THE
SWORD TO
KANTO.

IF YOU
WANT IT
BACK,

COME
TO
SEIRAN.

POOSH



THE
SEIRYU
SWORD...!?

WAIT!

STOP!



WHAT...?

THREE
OF
THE
FOUR!



OH,
ONE
THING
MORE.

THE BLUE KING
KNOWS THE
WHEREABOUTS OF
THE SEIRYU SWORD,
A COMPANION TO
THIS ONE.



KAKU-

STOP!

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO GO
AFTER
HIM.



TA
TARA...



I HAVE
TO GO
TO THE
EAST!



THE
BYAKKO
SWORD...

THE
BLUE
KING...

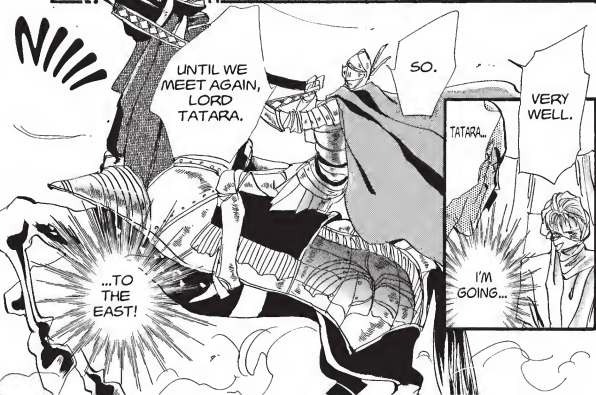
THE
SEIRYU
SWORD...



IT WILL
HAVE TO
BE
AFTER
THAT.

BUT THE
REPAIRS TO
OUR SHIP WILL
TAKE TEN
DAYS.

YOU, IN THE
IRON MASK—
I WILL GO TO
KANTO.



UNTIL WE
MEET AGAIN,
LORD
TATARA.

SO.

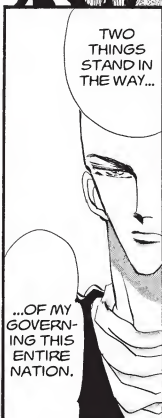
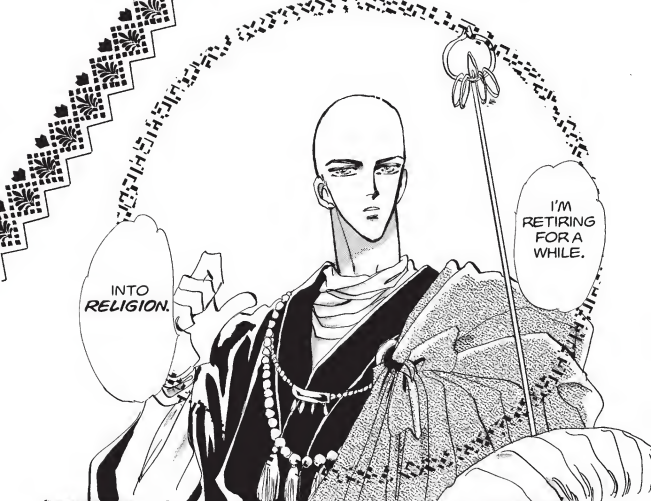
VERY
WELL.

TATARA...

...TO
THE
EAST!

I'M
GOING...







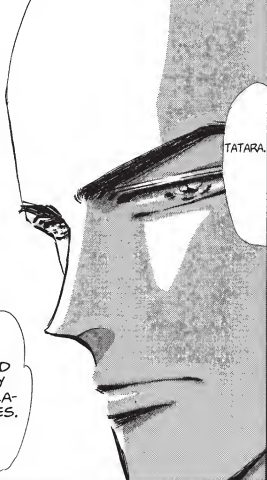
I WILL
GO TO
KANTO—

AND
REMOVE
THIS
PEST.

I CAN'T
HAVE A
WAR WITH
THE BLUE
ARMY.

I CAN'T
SURR-
ENDER
TO
THEM,
EITHER.

AND
MY
RELA-
TIVES.



TATARA.



I WILL NEVER
LET THIS
CITY BURN
AGAIN!

IN THE
MEANTIME,
FIGHT THE
BLUE ARMY
WITH
EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE!

KEEP THEM
IN THE
DESERT!
DO NOT LET
THEM
INTO
THE CITY!



LISTEN!

RE-
MOVE...

SAY NO
WORD
ABOUT

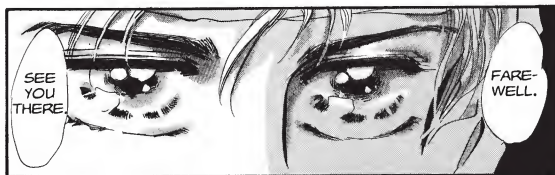
MY HAVING
LEFT FOR
TWENTY DAYS!





IN THE MEAN-TIME...







...THANKS.

WHY?



IT'S A TERRIBLE PLACE.

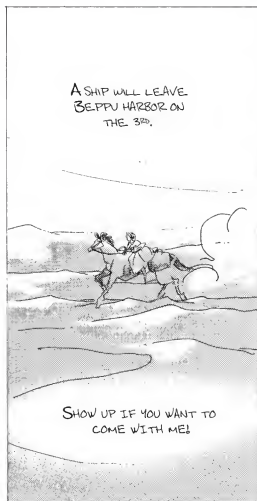
I'M WORRIED

KANTO, IT WILL ALWAYS BE A CENTURY BEHIND IN CUSTOMS.



AGEHA! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

BE CAREFUL.



A SHIP WILL LEAVE BEPPU HARBOR ON THE 3RD.

SHOW UP IF YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME!



YES.

ALL RIGHT, HISHA. LET'S GET GOING OURSELVES.

OOF.



NAGI...

HEH

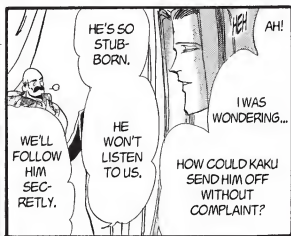
YES.

SEE YOU.



HE'S GONE.

SO HE IS...



HE'S SO STUB-BORN.

HEH

AH!

I WAS WONDERING...

HOW COULD KAKU SEND HIM OFF WITHOUT COMPLAINT?

WE'LL FOLLOW HIM SECRETLY.

HE WON'T LISTEN TO US.



IT'LL BE EASIER
TO SNEAK INTO
KANTO AND TAKE
BACK THE SWORD
AS A GIRL!



HAHAHAHA!

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO
YOUR HEAD!?

SUITS
ME,
YOU
THINK?
HA HA!

DO I
LOOK
CUTE?



YOU
DO
LOVE
ME,
DON'T
YOU?

SHURI!?



OH-
HO!

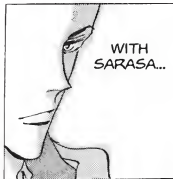
I KNEW
YOU'D
COME!



I'LL BE
CAMOU-
FLAGED.



WITH
SHURI...



WITH
SARASA...

ALWAYS REMEMBER...
...EVERY JOURNEY
MIGHT BE YOUR LAST...

HEY!
LET'S GO!

TO
KANTO!

TATARA.

TAKE
CARE...

...ON
YOUR
JOURNEY.

EMERALD TALE 2:
THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

A CLEAR DAY...

SSSS

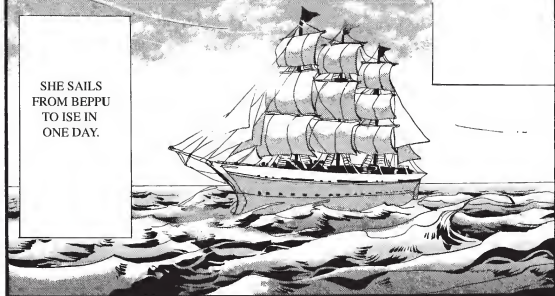
SS





THE PASSENGER SHIP AKANE.

SHE SAILS
FROM BEPPU
TO ISE IN
ONE DAY.



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

I was afraid it might happen, but...
People were so mad that I shaved
Shuri's head. Eep!

It'll grow out eventually.
Besides, they say hair grows really fast on
horny guys..



← You know how he is.

I DON'T LET THE LITTLE
THINGS GET TO ME.

It's not that
I like bald
heads...

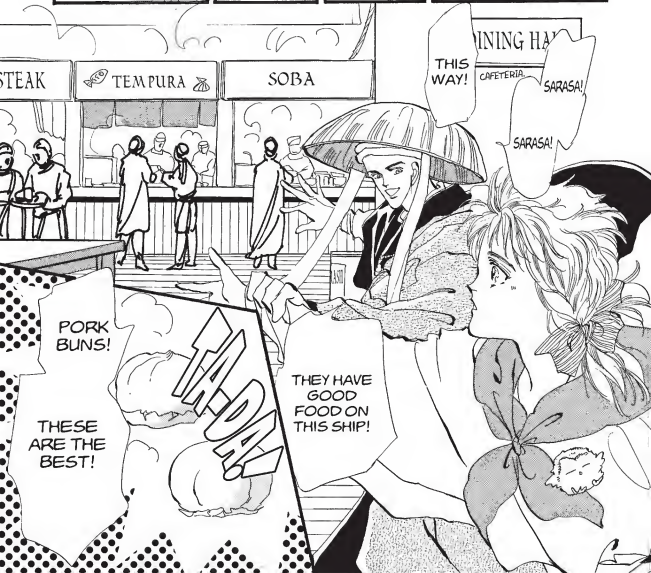
TAMU

WELL, I DO

SARASA'S JOURNEY

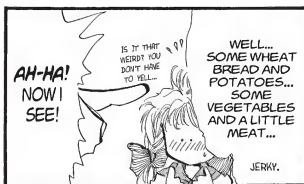








RICE CAN'T BE GROWN IN THE WEST AND IS TOO EXPENSIVE TO BUY.



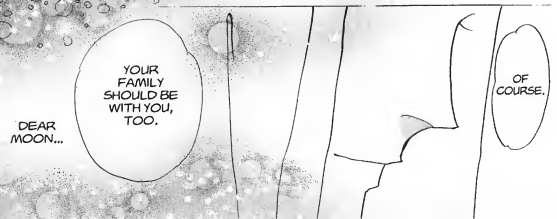
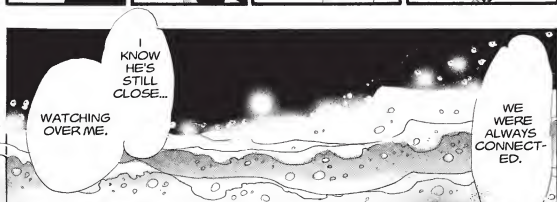


THIS SHIP IS RUN ACCORDING TO SHURI'S TASTES.









SSS

SSSH

I
HOPE
SO.

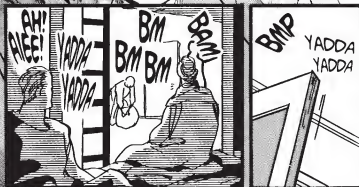
MOON IN THE
WESTERN SKY...

YOU
THINK
SO?

...SOAR HIGH,
NEVER SET...

LET ME STAY HERE
JUST LIKE THIS,
TALKING TO HIM
ALL NIGHT.

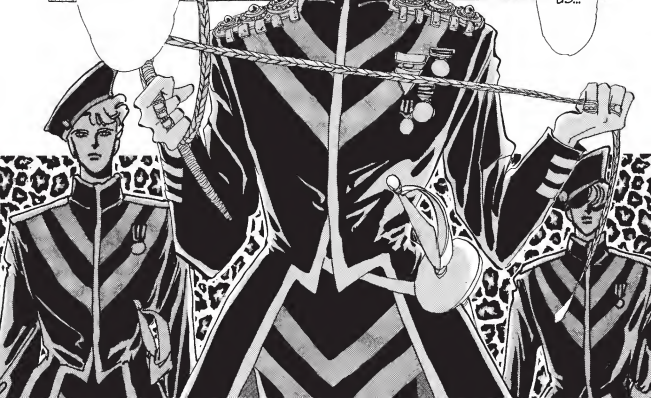
JUST LIKE THIS...

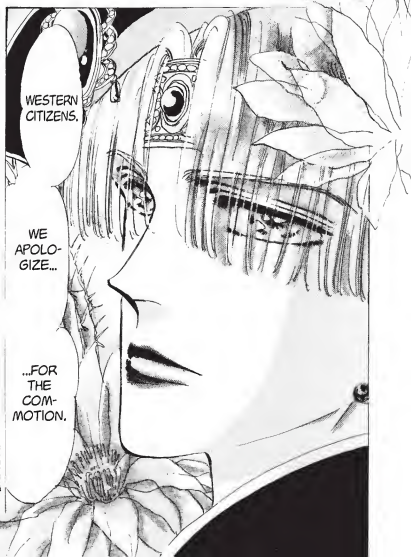


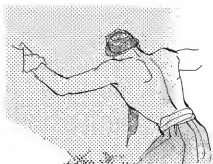
SSSH

RAISE
ANCHOR!

SSSH

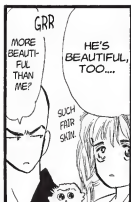






...JUST
LIKE
AGEHA'S...
AND
SHURI'S.

THAT
SLAVE
HAD A
BRAND ON
HIS BACK...



GRR

MORE
BEAUTI-
FUL
THAN
ME?

HE'S
BEAUTIFUL,
TOO....

SUCH
FAIR
SKIN.



I DON'T
LIKE BALD
GUYS.

HE'S A
SHREWD
ONE.

THAT
CAPTAIN-

HE'S THE
BLUE
KING'S
RIGHT
HAND
MAN.

I'LL
BET-

SHURI
WOULD BE IN
TROUBLE IF
THEY
KNEW...

WHAT KIND
OF PLACE IS
IT?

SO SLAVERY
STILL EXISTS
IN THE
EAST...





ISE

WE'RE
HERE!

I HAVE
TO GET
BACK THE
BYAKKO
SWORD!

NOW,

FOL-
LOW
ME.

IF WE
STAYED ON
THIS SHIP,

WE MIGHT BE
ARRESTED
AT THE
OTHER END
ON
SUSPICION
OF SPYING.

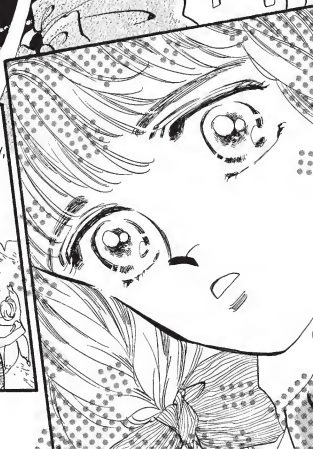
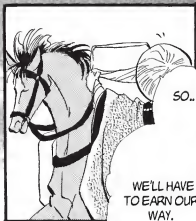
YOU
PROBABLY
DON'T KNOW
THIS,

BUT
THERE'S
SOME
TROUBLE
BE-
TWEEN
THE EAST
AND
WEST
RIGHT
NOW.

SHURI...?
AREN'T WE
GOING TO
GET ON
THE EAST-
BOUND
SHIP?

NO.
WE'LL
GO BY
LAND.

WALK!



CULTURE IS PASSED DOWN THROUGH CUISINE.



I'M A
YOUNG
MAN ON
HIS
OWN.

DRES-
SED
LIKE A
MONK?

CALL IT
MY
REBEL-
LION.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
KANTO TO
SELL
PASTRY?

IT'S MY
DREAM
TO
OPEN MY
OWN
SHOP.

SO THAT'S
WHAT ALL
HIS
LUGGAGE
IS ABOUT!



THERE ARE
SO MANY
TREES I'VE
NEVER SEEN
BEFORE!

THE FIELD
IS FULL
OF
GRASS.

LOOK!

WOW!
IT'S SO
COLD!

LET'S
TAKE
SOME
WATER.

LOOK!
A
RIVER!

A REAL
RIVER!

IT'S
FANTASTIC!

IT'S
AMAZ-
ING!

EVERY-
THING
IS SO
GREEN!

IT'S
BEAU-
TIFUL!

BUT IT'S
SO
GREEN!

PEOPLE
FROM
THE
WEST
CAN'T
HANDLE
IT AT
FIRST.

THAT'S
THE
HUMIDITY.

IT
ALSO
FEELS
KIND OF
STUFFY.



OF COURSE...
WHY DIDN'T I
REALIZE
BEFORE?

...OH...

I PREFER
...LESS
CROWDED
BATHS.

THERE'S
ONE BACK
THERE,
WHERE
EVERYONE
ELSE—

I
WONDER
IF THERE'S
A HOT
SPRING
NEARBY.

I FEEL
STICKY.

: ...BECAUSE
HE DOESN'T
WANT
ANYONE TO
SEE THE
SLAVE-
BRAND ON
HIS BACK!

• HE
ALWAYS
GOES TO
DESERTED
HOT
SPRINGS...

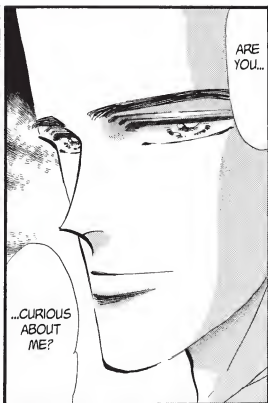
SHURI...

THAT
MARK
ON
YOUR
BACK...

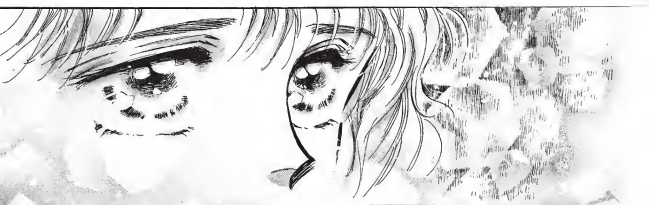
HM?

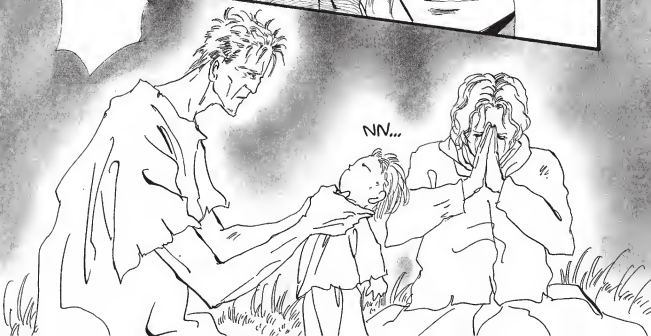
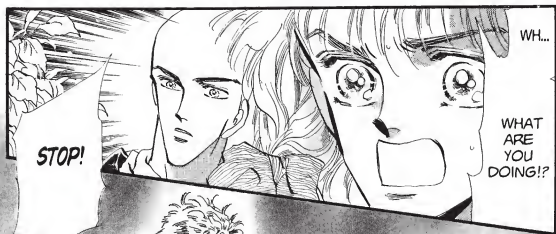
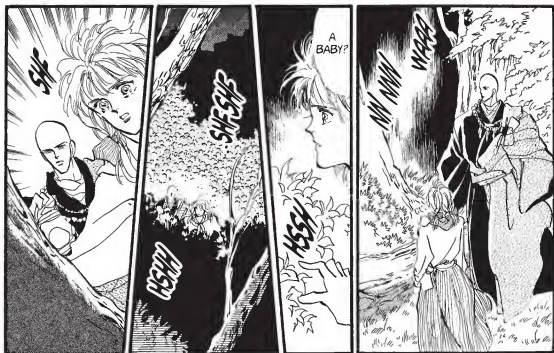
SHURI...

CAN I
ASK YOU
SOME-
THING?



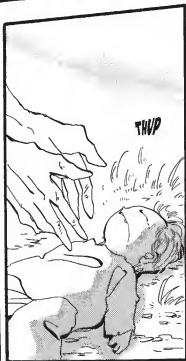
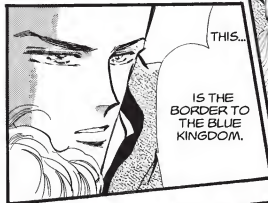
THEN DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE AT LEAST A LITTLE INTERESTED?

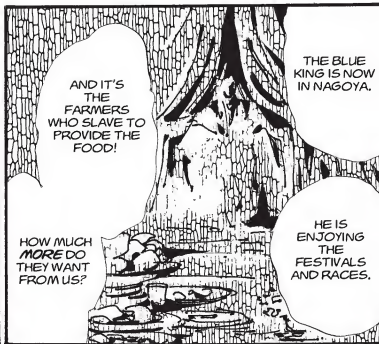
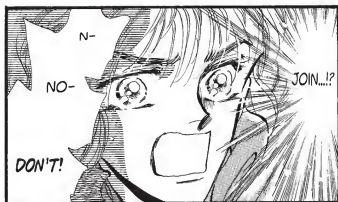


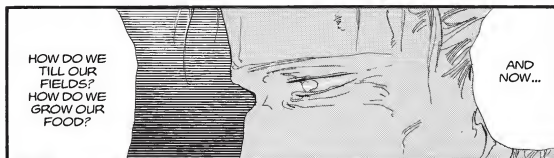
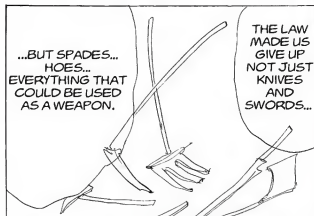


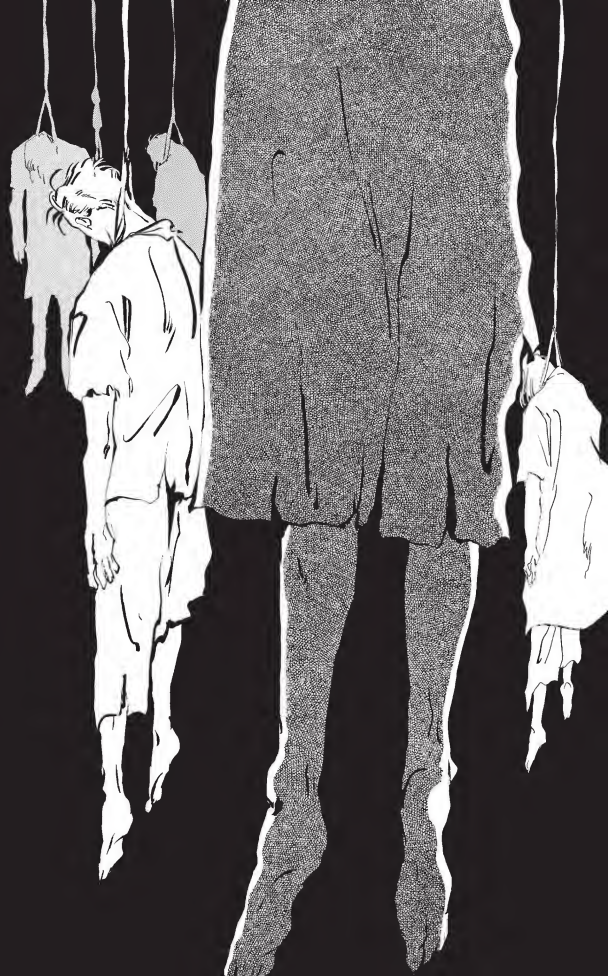


DON'T COME HERE.









DO YOU
THINK IT
WILL HELP
THEM...

TO GIVE
THEM A
LITTLE
FOOD
NOW?

SARASA!

NO!

PLEASE
SAY A
WORD
OF
PRAYER
FOR US.

WE HAVE A
LITTLE
FOOD!
SOME
DUMPLINGS!

WE'LL-

... THEN
WHAT WILL
YOU DO?

BUT
TOMOR-
ROW...

YOU CAN
GIVE A STRAY
CAT A LITTLE
FOOD TODAY.

YOU
CAN'T
DIE!

NO!

YOU CAN'T
DO THIS!



**YOU'VE
GOT TO
LIVE!**

**YOU'VE
GOT TO
LIVE!**

**NO
MATTER
HOW!**

**NO MATTER
HOW BAD IT
LOOKS—**





LET
THEM
BE.

THEY'RE
SENDING A
MESSAGE
TO THE
BLUE KING.

THIS PROBABLY
WON'T AFFECT
HIM AT ALL.

IT'S
A
PITY...

...YOU HAVE TO
KILL THE
CAUSE.

TO STOP
THE
SYSTEM...

THE
TREES
AREN'T
THERE FOR
HANGING!

SHURI...

BUT
THIS
PLACE IS
SO
GREEN...

THERE'S
SO MUCH
WATER!



WHY
CAN'T
THEY
SURVIVE!?

THIS
ISN'T A
DESERT!

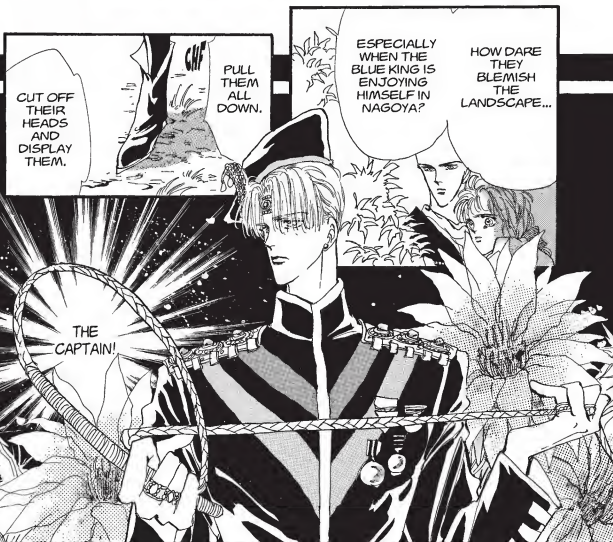
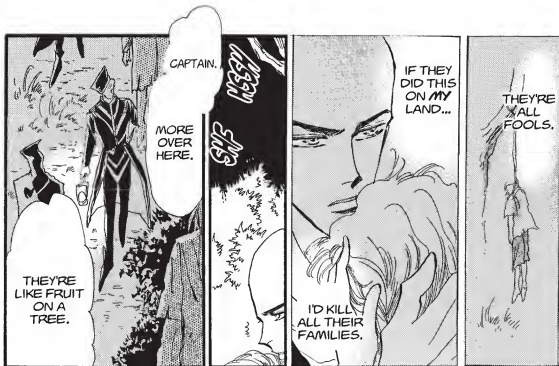


...IS
COLDER
THAN THE
DESERT
NIGHT!

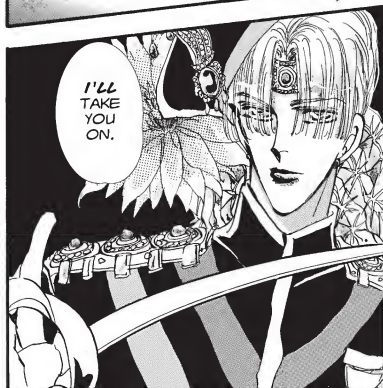
THIS
PLACE...



SARASA...









HE'S A
RUN-
AWAY
SLAVE!

A
BRAND!

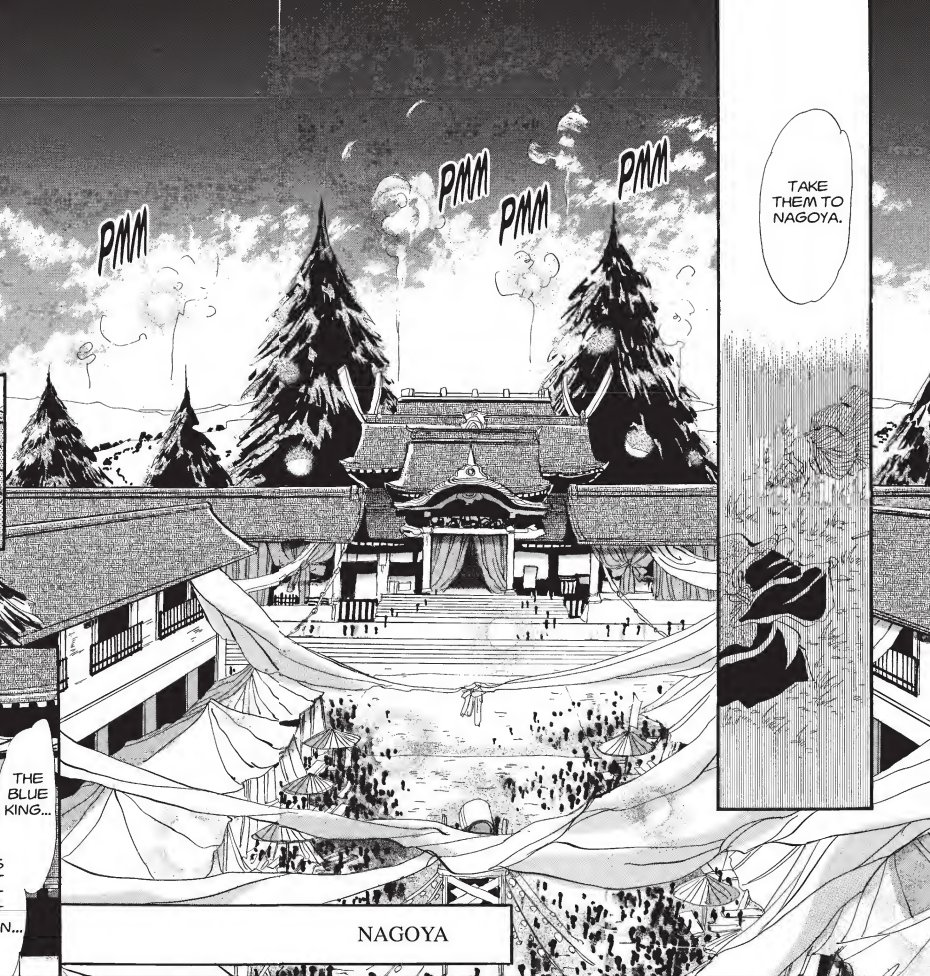
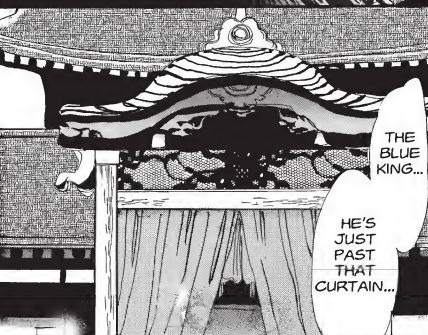
SHURI!!

RIP

NOW I
SEE...

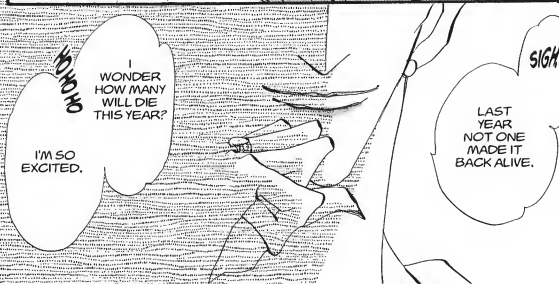
MMMM.







YES, SIR.





COME ONE!
COME ALL!

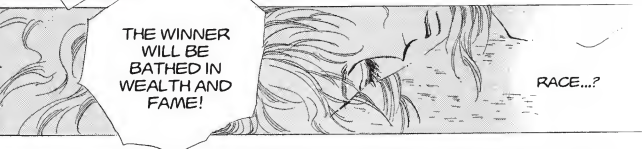
THE
GREATEST
RACE IS
ABOUT
TO
BEGIN!

20
TEAMS OF
ATHLETES
WILL RACE
FOR THE
GOAL!



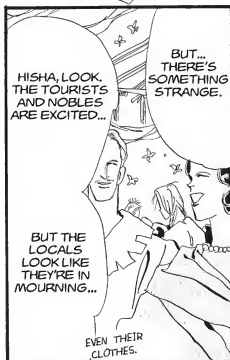
MY
HEAD...

IS
SPINNING...



THE WINNER
WILL BE
BATHED IN
WEALTH AND
FAME!

RACE...?



HISHA, LOOK.
THE TOURISTS
AND NOBLES
ARE EXCITED...

BUT...
THERE'S
SOMETHING
STRANGE.

BUT THE
LOCALS
LOOK LIKE
THEY'RE IN
MOURNING...

EVEN THEIR
CLOTHES.

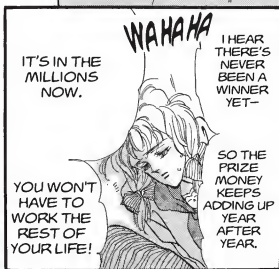


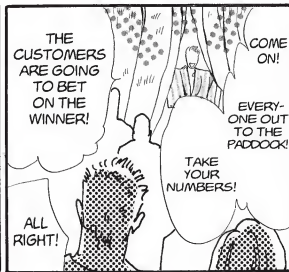
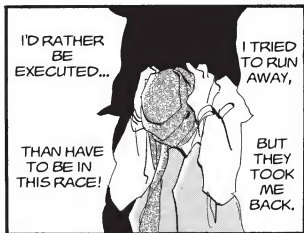
A
RACE?

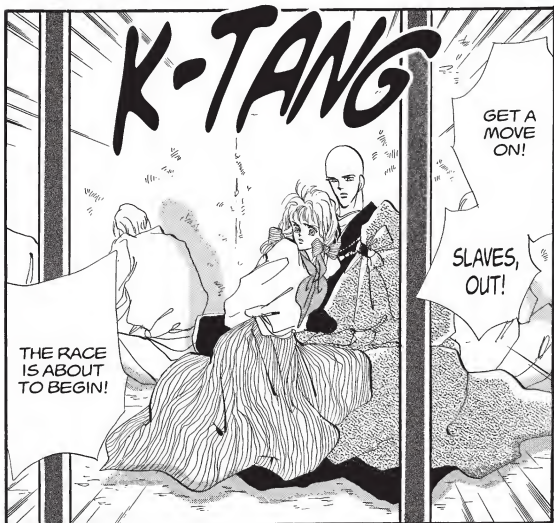
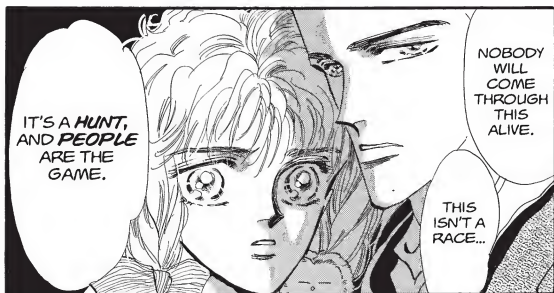
THE
CONTESTANTS
WILL NOW ENTER
THE
PADDOCK!

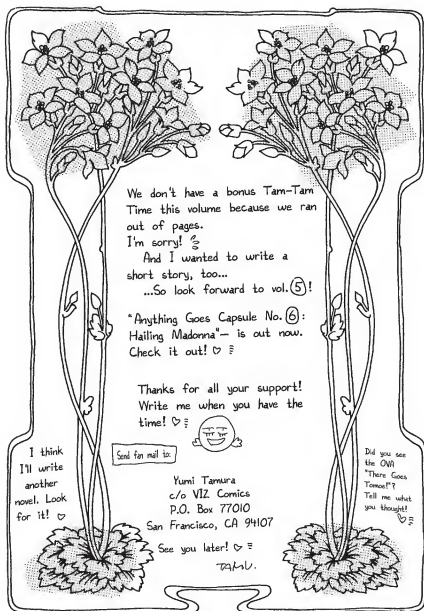
TAKE A
LOOK AND
PLACE
YOUR
BETS!

HUH?
MUST BE
A GOOD
ONE.









We don't have a bonus Tam-Tam Time this volume because we ran out of pages.

I'm sorry! ♡ ∞

And I wanted to write a short story, too...

...So look forward to vol. (5)!

"Anything Goes Capsule No. (6):
Hailing Madonna"— is out now.
Check it out! ♡ ∞

Thanks for all your support!
Write me when you have the
time! ♡ ∞



Send fan mail to:

Yumi Tamura
c/o VIZ Comics
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

See you later! ♡ ∞

TATU.

I think
I'll write
another
novel. Look
for it! ♡

Did you see
the OVA
"There Goes
Touma"?
Tell me what
you thought! ♡ ∞

I'll be skiing in Hokkaido by the time this comes out... or I should be.
I wonder if I'll be able to make my deadline... Sigh.